



# CONNECT

A newsletter for the members of JEFFERSON ENERGY COOPERATIVE

## Local before local was cool

***Autonomy and independence: One of the Seven Cooperative Principles that give all co-ops guidance***

**Chris Dillard, President and CEO**



**W**hether you travel across the country or prefer to stay close to home, you may have noticed the emphasis on “Buy Local” campaigns. This is based on one simple fact: It’s important to support businesses that support our community.

The Small Business Administration and the research firm Civic Economics estimate that dollars spent at a locally owned business stay in the community more than three times longer than money spent at big-box stores, headquartered far (10069923-001) from your hometown. This means your community wealth is more likely to grow by shopping locally.

Member-owned electric cooperatives, like Jefferson Energy Cooperative, have known this forever. We were formed in 1937 by people in this community to serve the folks who work, worship and live in this community.

A common expression among cooperators is, “If you’ve seen one co-op, you’ve seen one co-op.” While there are many similarities between co-ops, the fact that we are controlled locally, allowing us to serve your needs, is a critically important principle.

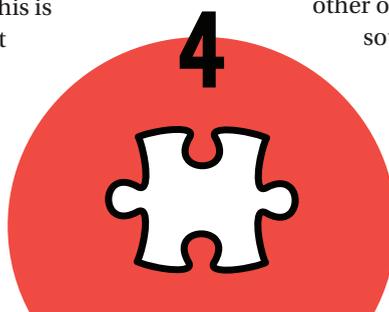
The fourth of our Seven Cooperative Principles is Autonomy and Independence. Cooperatives are

autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If the co-op enters into agreements with other organizations or raises capital from external sources, it is based on terms that ensure democratic control by the members and maintain the cooperative’s autonomy.

This will allow Jefferson Energy to continue to be the self-help organization envisioned by the founders of the modern cooperative movement.

In other words, for the co-op to stay a co-op, it is vitally important we stay close to you, our members, to ensure we continue to respond to your needs. We do this through programs like Operation Round Up, Cooperative OutReach for Education and Bright Ideas. Additionally, we offer renewable sources of energy and strive to support (10061185-001) local businesses, charities and civic organizations.

You can be sure that Jefferson Energy will not move our operations to any foreign country, as so many other corporations do. We began right here in our community, and we plan on being here for a very long time. You can take that to the bank—or better yet, the credit union, as all credit unions are financial cooperatives. As always, we welcome your participation and suggestions about how we can improve our locally owned and controlled services.



### **AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE**

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control as well as their unique identity.

# Students Can Earn \$1,000 Scholarship

**T**he cost of attending a public college is continually increasing. Private colleges take an even more significant chunk out of a student's (or a family's) budget.

Keeping in mind those sobering statistics, and to provide a measure of relief for those seeking a college education, Jefferson Energy Cooperative encourages students to submit applications for the Walter Harrison Scholarship, a program sponsored by Georgia's 41 electric cooperatives.

The \$1,000 scholarship can be applied to academic expenses at any accredited two- or four-year university, college or vocational-technical institute in Georgia. Factors used for consideration include grade-point average, SAT scores, academic standing, scholastic honors and financial need.

A scholarship committee, composed of EMC directors and manag-

Completed applications are  
due by Jan. 29, 2021  
[www.jec.coop](http://www.jec.coop)



ers, selects students who excel in these areas and who struggle with college expenses.

Students who apply for the scholarship must be accepted or enrolled in an accredited undergraduate degree program in Georgia. They also must complete an application and write an autobiographical sketch with a preview of their future plans.

The scholarship is partially funded through a silent auction typically held each year at Georgia EMC's Annual Meeting. The 41 electric co-ops throughout Georgia donate unique items representative of every region

of the state.

Twelve scholarships will be awarded statewide in 2021. To apply for the Walter Harrison Scholarship during the 2021-2022 school year, students should contact Jefferson Energy Cooperative at (706) 547-2167 or visit [www.jec.coop](http://www.jec.coop). Completed applications are due by Jan. 29, 2021.

Created in 1985 by the Board of Directors of Georgia EMC, the scholarship pays tribute to the late Walter Harrison, a pioneer in the rural electric movement and a leader at local, state and national levels in the electric cooperative program.

## Stay Warm; Save Energy

**E**veryone knows that turning the thermostat down a few degrees and throwing an extra blanket on the bed can stave off high winter energy bills. Here are a few simple, but lesser-known, energy-savers that you might consider:

**Turn on the ceiling fan.** If you switch the direction that the fan's blades rotate so they slowly spin clockwise, the room could feel a bit warmer. This creates an updraft and pushes warm air back into the room.

**Retire your wood-burning fireplace.** An open fire requires an open flue, which can suck the warmth right out of your house. Consider replacing it with an electrical insert

with realistic flames or a fun light show.

**Open the drapes during the day; close them at night.** The sun is nature's furnace, so let it shine in through south-facing windows during the day. (10070781-001)

**Cover windows with plastic film.** It will prevent much of the heat loss through uncovered windows.

**Place portable space heaters** in the rooms you use most often so you can turn the thermostat down a bit and avoid heating unused spaces.

**Run exhaust fans sparingly.** Turn on the bathroom fan before you take a shower and turn it off as soon as the steam clears so it won't suck warm air out of your home.





# Jefferson Energy Cooperative 2021 Meter Reading Schedule

\*\* Schedule is subject to change \*\*

CYCLE	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
310-319	4-Jan	1-Feb	1-Mar	1-Apr	3-May	1-Jun	1-Jul	2-Aug	1-Sep	1-Oct	1-Nov	1-Dec
321-329	5-Jan	2-Feb	2-Mar	5-Apr	4-May	2-Jun	2-Jul	3-Aug	2-Sep	4-Oct	2-Nov	2-Dec
331-339	6-Jan	3-Feb	3-Mar	6-Apr	5-May	3-Jun	6-Jul	4-Aug	3-Sep	5-Oct	3-Nov	3-Dec
341-349	7-Jan	4-Feb	4-Mar	7-Apr	6-May	4-Jun	7-Jul	5-Aug	7-Sep	6-Oct	4-Nov	6-Dec
351-359	8-Jan	5-Feb	5-Mar	8-Apr	7-May	7-Jun	8-Jul	6-Aug	8-Sep	7-Oct	5-Nov	7-Dec
361-369	11-Jan	8-Feb	8-Mar	9-Apr	10-May	8-Jun	9-Jul	9-Aug	9-Sep	8-Oct	8-Nov	8-Dec
371-379	12-Jan	9-Feb	9-Mar	12-Apr	11-May	9-Jun	12-Jul	10-Aug	10-Sep	11-Oct	9-Nov	9-Dec
381-389	13-Jan	10-Feb	10-Mar	13-Apr	12-May	10-Jun	13-Jul	11-Aug	13-Sep	12-Oct	10-Nov	10-Dec
391-399	14-Jan	11-Feb	11-Mar	14-Apr	13-May	14-Jun	14-Jul	12-Aug	14-Sep	13-Oct	11-Nov	13-Dec
410-419	15-Jan	12-Feb	15-Mar	15-Apr	14-May	15-Jun	15-Jul	16-Aug	15-Sep	14-Oct	12-Nov	14-Dec
421-429	18-Jan	15-Feb	16-Mar	19-Apr	17-May	16-Jun	16-Jul	17-Aug	16-Sep	18-Oct	15-Nov	15-Dec
431-439	19-Jan	16-Feb	17-Mar	20-Apr	18-May	17-Jun	19-Jul	18-Aug	20-Sep	19-Oct	16-Nov	16-Dec
441-449	20-Jan	17-Feb	18-Mar	21-Apr	19-May	18-Jun	21-Jul	19-Aug	21-Sep	20-Oct	17-Nov	17-Dec
451-459	21-Jan	18-Feb	22-Mar	22-Apr	20-May	21-Jun	22-Jul	20-Aug	22-Sep	21-Oct	18-Nov	20-Dec
461-469	22-Jan	19-Feb	23-Mar	23-Apr	21-May	22-Jun	23-Jul	23-Aug	23-Sep	22-Oct	19-Nov	21-Dec
471-479	25-Jan	22-Feb	24-Mar	26-Apr	24-May	23-Jun	26-Jul	24-Aug	24-Sep	25-Oct	22-Nov	22-Dec
481-489	26-Jan	23-Feb	25-Mar	27-Apr	25-May	24-Jun	27-Jul	25-Aug	27-Sep	26-Oct	23-Nov	27-Dec
490-499	27-Jan	24-Feb	29-Mar	28-Apr	26-May	28-Jun	28-Jul	26-Aug	28-Sep	27-Oct	24-Nov	28-Dec
400-409	28-Jan	25-Feb	30-Mar	29-Apr	27-May	29-Jun	29-Jul	30-Aug	29-Sep	28-Oct	29-Nov	29-Dec

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Replace standard power strips with **advanced power strips** to save energy. Advanced power strips look like ordinary power strips, but they have built-in features designed to reduce the amount of energy used by standby electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use (also known as phantom load). The National Renewable Energy Laboratory estimates that the average home loses \$200 annually to energy wasted by phantom load.





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## Jefferson Energy Cooperative

### Jefferson Energy Cooperative

P.O. Box 457  
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Wrens, Georgia 30833-0457  
<http://www.jec.coop>

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*Richmond County Region*

#### TIM GARRETT

*South Region*

A consumer-owned Georgia cooperative since 1937

### OFFICE HOURS

All offices: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Monday through Friday

#### CHRIS DILLARD

*President/CEO*

#### STEVE CHALKER, CCC

*Director of Public Relations/Editor*

For your convenience, bills can be paid anytime at the Corporate Headquarters, Richmond, Louisville or Thomson offices.

### TOLL-FREE SERVICE NUMBER

**1-877-533-3377**  
*24-hour Dispatching Daily*

*Published monthly and mailed to all members of Jefferson Energy Cooperative.*

### KEEP INFORMED AND WIN \$25

It pays to keep informed about JEC's business. Read and find your account number in "CONNECT." Call our Member Services Department to claim your award—a \$25 credit on your bill.

### WITH YOUR CORRECT PHONE NUMBER, WE CAN GET THE LIGHTS ON FASTER

During large outages, Jefferson Energy Cooperative receives thousands of calls at once. Having your correct phone number helps our Outage Call Answering System retrieve your information faster.

Please check the phone number and service address listed on your electric bill. If they are incorrect, please call 877-JEFFERSON (877-533-3377) with the correct information so we can better serve you.

*Jefferson Energy Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

# Jefferson Energy Foundation Scholarships Available

The Jefferson Energy Cooperative Foundation is accepting scholarship applications. Forms are available at local Jefferson Energy offices, as well (10075537-001) as the guidance offices at local high schools. Applicants must be a member of Jefferson Energy Cooperative. The deadline for submitting applications is March 26, 2021. Please contact Suzanne Saunders at (706) 547-5055 for more information.

The deadline to submit applications is March 26, 2021.



# Sign Up for E-Bill

Paying your Jefferson Energy bill is now easier than ever! Thanks to our e-bill service, you'll be saving on paper, stamps, gas—but mainly your time! Let Jefferson Energy tell you more about this completely secure and convenient feature when you call (877) JEFFERSON, or (877) 533-3377. You'll really appreciate how easy it is while taking one more thing off your to-do list.

E-bill from Jefferson Energy Cooperative ... you're gonna love it.

