



CONNECT

A newsletter for the members of JEFFERSON ENERGY COOPERATIVE

Putting Concern for Community Into Action

Chris Dillard, President and CEO



Georgia’s electric membership corporations (EMCs) put Cooperative Principle No. 7—Concern for Community—into action in numerous ways.

“True to this principle, EMCs in Georgia have stepped up to the plate to meet needs in their service areas for more than 80 years,” says Lindsay Bridges, Vice President of Communications and Member Services for Tucker-based Georgia EMC, the trade association for (9993119-002) Georgia’s 41 EMCs. “Electric co-ops lend a helping hand to local organizations and individuals, support worthwhile projects that benefit the community at large, support education and develop leaders to improve the lives and communities of those they serve.”

Georgia EMC works with the state’s electric co-ops on many important leadership initiatives, including:

- **Washington Youth Tour.** This annual summer event provides a week of leadership training in the nation’s capital, where high school students learn about history and government, and meet with state and national leaders. Jefferson Energy Cooperative (JEC) sends student delegates on the Washington Youth Tour each summer. **This year’s tour is still in the works. Please be on the lookout for our announcement and school visits that will be happening very soon.**

- **Walter Harrison Scholarship Program.** Based on academics and financial need, this program offers \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors and undergraduate students in college or technical school.

- **Georgia High School Association (GHSA).** Georgia’s EMCs support student-athletes by assisting with state football and basketball championship finals and annually present Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship awards to high schools that exhibit exemplary sportsmanship. Jefferson Energy helps with the GHSA by participating in scholar athlete recognitions, as well as the GHSA

awards and events each year.

- **Operation Round Up.** Our Jefferson Energy Foundation heads up the Operation Round Up program, in which JEC members round up their monthly power bills to the next dollar, with the difference funding a variety of programs. For years, the foundation has provided grants for area nonprofits, including food banks, literacy programs, emergency shelters, charities, teacher grants, student scholarships and more.



- **Bright Ideas.** Jefferson Energy supports education by funding innovative instructional ideas from local teachers. This year, JEC awarded 50 educators across the 11 counties we serve with grants totaling up to \$1,000 each for their classroom projects.

As you can see, Jefferson Energy doesn’t just provide safe, affordable and reliable electricity. We also demonstrate our concern for community through initiatives like the ones listed above to improve the quality of life for all our members and the community at large. Our community involvement does not stop there, as we also provide assistance for local festivals, parades and community events, in addition to providing financial, electrical safety education and support to our community each day.

New Year—New Ways to Pay

Introducing Jefferson Energy's New Check-Out Program

Jefferson Energy is partnering with more than 50,000 retail locations across the country, including Dollar General, CVS, Speedway, 7-Eleven and Family Dollar to bring our members even more convenience when it comes to paying your utility bill (20162-001).

Members will receive a bar code along with their bill in January. Once you have your bar code, you can visit local retailers to pay your bill. The system is cash only. Once the payment is processed, your account will be updated in real time. A convenience fee of \$1.50 per transaction will be charged.

To find out more about the many locations where you can pay your JEC utility bill and helpful information on the Check-Out process, call 877-JEFFERSON.



Jefferson Energy Cooperative
An Electric Membership Corporation

More than 1,900 locations in Georgia

- Dollar General
- Family Dollar
- CVS
- Fred's
- GameStop



DOLLAR GENERAL

GameStop
POWER TO THE PLAYERS

FAMILY DOLLAR



Jefferson Energy's Change of Mailing Address and USPS Changes



To combat postal delays, beginning Jan. 3, 2022, Jefferson Energy's payment address is changing. Members will be provided with new mailing envelopes, including the updated address below:

**P.O. Box 2153, Department 1340
Birmingham, AL 35287-1340**

As a reminder: Effective Oct. 1, 2021, the U.S. Postal Service implemented revised service standards for certain first-class mail and periodicals. Avoid postal delays by enrolling in e-billing, our JEC Power Link or auto-pay today. Call 877-JEFFERSON or (706) 547-2167 today.

Mailing Address Change

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Jefferson Energy's payment address is changing. Members will be provided with new mailing envelopes, including the updated address:

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Are Portable Space Heaters Efficient for My Home?

Small space heaters are meant to do exactly as their name says: heat a small space. But unfortunately, many people use portable space heaters to heat their entire home, which can really take a toll on your energy bills. The truth is, whether you should use space heaters really depends on your home's efficiency and energy needs.

If you're using a space heater to compensate for problems in your home, like inadequate insulation, drafty windows and exterior doors, or an inefficient heating system, space heaters are not a practical solution. Your best bet is to improve the overall efficiency of your home. If you're on a tight budget, caulking and weatherstripping around windows and exterior doors is a low-cost, easy way to save energy. Depending on the size of your home, adding insulation can be a great next step. Taking these proactive energy-saving measures rather than relying on space heaters for supplemental warmth can reduce your heating and cooling bills for years to (10071366-001) come.

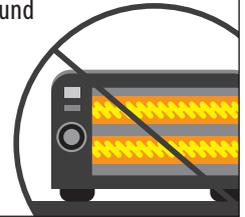
Perhaps your home is energy-efficient but you're cold-natured and want a specific room to be cozier than the rest. In this case, a space heater



TIPS TO DITCH THE SPACE HEATER

Space heaters are energy hogs, and older models can be extremely dangerous. This winter, ditch the space heater and try these alternative solutions to stay cozy:

- Use an electric blanket to keep warm during the night.
- Caulk and weatherstrip around all windows and doors to prevent heat loss.
- Consider adding insulation to your attic and around ductwork.



may work for your needs. A good comparison is ceiling fans; we use ceiling fans in the summer to cool people, not rooms. A space heater can be used in a similar way during winter months.

A word about safety: the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates more than 25,000 residential fires are associated with the use of space heaters every year, resulting in more than 300 deaths. If you must use a space heater, purchase a newer model that includes the most current safety features and make sure it carries

the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) label. Always keep children and pets away from space heaters.

Consider alternative ways to stay warm like extra layers of clothing or UL-approved electric blankets. If you have hardwood or tile floors, lay down area rugs to provide additional insulation (and appeal!) and maintain warmth.

We know it's cold out there, but remember in addition to safety concerns, space heaters can greatly increase your energy bills if used improperly.

Holiday Without the Hazard—Store Electric Decorations Safely

Every year around New Year's Day, you carefully zip your artificial Christmas tree into a waterproof bag. You lovingly place your precious ornaments into padded boxes. You neatly fold your leftover wrapping paper and stack it in a plastic box so it will come out fresh and ready next December. But are you piling tangles of electric light strands into a box that's a little too small?

Here are five ways to keep your

light strands in good shape and prevent them from becoming next winter's fire hazard:

1. As you take down each strand of lights, inspect it for broken or burned-out bulbs. Replace the bulbs and discard any strands with frayed or damaged cords.
2. Stick a label on each strand of lights to remind you where you hung it. A year is a long time to remember those details (10004188-004).
3. Pack up all extension cords with the decorations. Extension cords are designed for temporary use and are not safe to use constantly.
4. Invest in a storage wheel designed for string lights and a bag sized for the reels. That will keep the cords from tangling, the bulbs from breaking, and the weather and bugs from ruining your lights.
5. Remove batteries from decorations before you put them away.



CONNECT

Jefferson Energy Cooperative

Jefferson Energy Cooperative

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A member-owned Georgia cooperative since 1937

OFFICE HOURS

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

CHRIS DILLARD

President/CEO

TAMIKA LAMPKIN

Director of Cooperative Communications

For your convenience, bills can be paid anytime at the corporate headquarters, or in the Richmond, Louisville or Thomson offices.

TOLL-FREE SERVICE NUMBER

(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.

Walter Harrison Scholarship: Apply Today



To apply for the Walter Harrison Scholarship during the 2021-22 school year, students should contact Jefferson Energy at (877) 533-3377, ext. 5055, email us at ssaunders@jec.coop or visit www.jec.coop. Completed applications are due by Jan. 31, 2022.



Cooperative Solar: Solar Energy With None of the Hassles



Cooperative Solar Blocks Available

Jefferson Energy is pleased to announce that we now have additional blocks available for our Cooperative Solar program. With Cooperative Solar, you can receive all the benefits of solar energy without the hassle of traditional rooftop or on-site solar panels. Plus, there's no long-term contract!

Give us a call today to find out how you can participate in Cooperative Solar.



Let Us Help Protect Your Family

Jefferson Energy Cooperative is the one you have always plugged into for reliable, economical energy service. Well, now you can plug your home into one of our innovative and affordable security systems.

Because we already provide your electricity, adding a security system is a snap. With our low prices and unmatched service, you can't afford not to protect your family and the ones you love.

Call 877-JEFFERSON today and find out more about Jefferson Energy Cooperative's home security systems. Don't wait until it's too late.



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