



# CONNECT

A newsletter for the members of JEFFERSON ENERGY COOPERATIVE

## Rooftop Solar: To Add or Not to Add

Chris Dillard, President and CEO

If you are thinking about adding solar as a home energy source, you likely have an array of questions. As your trusted energy provider, Jefferson Energy Cooperative (JEC) has answers.

When considering a rooftop solar system, it is important to know the facts regarding efficiency and energy savings—and whether solar will meet your needs, goals and financial objectives.

Typically, homeowners who install solar do so out of concern for the environment, to save money or both. It is important to know how rooftop solar at your home will impact these goals (96447-001).

While each home is different in terms of how much energy solar will provide, there are a few key factors to consider.

### Energy Consumption

A solar system's size is based on the home's energy needs. Before installing solar, make sure your home is as energy-efficient as possible in terms of lighting, heating and cooling systems and insulation. An energy-efficient home will require a smaller solar system, which will save money and help reduce environmental impact.

### Associated Costs and Maintenance

The age and orientation of your roof will affect your costs. The best orientation for solar panels is facing south to receive direct sunlight; a shaded roof does not produce as much solar energy. Because it costs more to replace a roof on a home with solar panels, the age of your roof also should be considered. Will your roof need to be replaced before solar panels need to be replaced? Just as a shingled roof does not last forever, neither does a solar panel system, which has an average lifespan of 25 to 30 years. Also, as a solar system ages, it produces less energy and may require maintenance and repairs.

### Your Access to Reliable Electricity

Unless you have a rooftop solar and battery storage system large enough to meet all your electricity needs during every hour of the day, JEC will still need to provide you with electricity at times.



### Signing a Solar Contract

Before you hire a solar contractor, contact us to learn about our solar offerings, rate structures and interconnection agreements. As with any major home-improvement project, get bids from three contractors to compare equipment and pricing when considering solar. You can also give us a call at (706) 547-2167 to get your free personalized solar analysis from our experts.

### Cooperative Solar

If your main concern is reducing your environmental impact, Jefferson Energy, like several others in Georgia, offers a cooperative solar program that allows you to purchase blocks of solar power generated by our solar installations.

This program allows our members to contribute to the benefits of clean, green solar power without the commitment of rooftop solar installation.

As your trusted energy provider, we want our members to make the best informed decision. Our experts can guide you toward your solar goals and energy-efficient needs. Give us a call before you install at (706) 547-2167, and visit our website for more information on solar at [www.jec.coop/solar-energy](http://www.jec.coop/solar-energy) or scan the QR code.



## Employee of the First Quarter DeWayne Powell



It has been more than 30 years since DeWayne Powell first walked through the doors of Jefferson Energy as a new employee. Since a young age, he has loved the idea of serving his community, and his dream has always been to become a lineman. Three decades in, and Powell has seen it all, from major storms to natural disasters, including the 2014 ice storm that shut down much of the Central Savannah River Area for seven days (10049771-001).

Along the way, Powell has met co-workers who have become friends, and even family in many cases. "My motivation each day comes from the people I work with, our members I've grown to care for and the help I provide to my community," Powell says of his motivation, work ethic and dedication to the co-op.

Aside from climbing poles, maneuvering in buckets high above the ground and safely providing power, Powell also enjoys listening to a wide range of musical artists, from Metallica to Waylon Jennings. He watches sports but does not have a favorite team, although he cheers for the University of Georgia Bulldogs. His favorite meal is steak and potatoes, and he keeps candy bars stocked in his truck.

When asked who would play him in a movie about his life, Powell says, "Al Pacino. He keeps it real and tells it like it is," and a person Powell says he can identify with. His favorite saying is, "The good Lord won't put more on you than you can handle."

At Jefferson Energy, we are grateful to Powell for his dedication to serving the co-op and our members every day.

## Employee of the Second Quarter Barbara Gibbons



Beginning her role five years ago, Barbara Gibbons greeted the halls of Jefferson Energy with a heart to serve others.

"I always wanted to do a job of service," she says. "I have always served people in my career path in some way, and it is fulfilling to be doing it here."

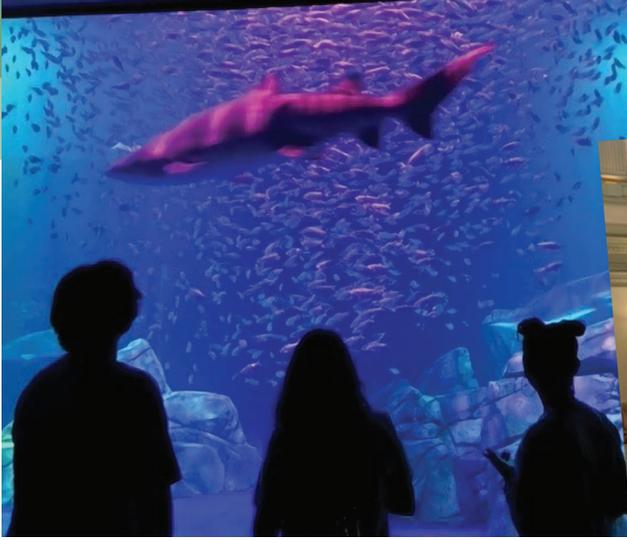
To JEC employees, Gibbons is soft-spoken but stern, friendly and, above all, thorough in her job at the co-op.

As part of the JEC Administration Department and custodial staff, Gibbons has helped navigate employees from a world of mask mandates and COVID-19 scares to a new normal of extra precautionary cleanliness. It has not been easy, but remains necessary for Gibbons and her team. She wakes up every day with a smile and the attitude that she is simply grateful to be here. Gibbons also says that her job is to make sure the facilities are clean, safe and comfortable, as she takes pride in her work to help ensure top quality for JEC employees and members.

Outside of Jefferson Energy, Gibbons loves spending time with her two sons and spoiling her three granddaughters rotten. She loves listening to musical artist Prince and watching all sports if it includes the University of Georgia. She is not picky with food, and says she has learned to enjoy any type of meal if it tastes good.

When asked who would play her in a movie about her life, she replies, "Viola Davis. I admire her beauty, strength and ability to overcome."

Gibbons says her motto is, "Don't wait for people to be kind, show them how." As the Employee of the Second Quarter, it is evident that this quote is displayed through her actions each day. Thank you for your dedication to serving us all!



# Georgia Youth Tour

**O**n June 27, Jefferson Energy awarded four rising seniors with the opportunity to learn more about Georgia, commerce and the role electric membership corporations (EMCs) play in both.

In place of this year’s Washington Youth Tour, Isabella Ledford of Thomson High School, Jacob Perry of Harlem High School, Kendal Cofer of Hephzibah High School and Selena Landaverde of Jefferson County High School, accompanied by JEC chaperones, visited Atlanta for our Georgia Youth Tour. They toured the Georgia State Capitol, World of Coca-Cola and Georgia Aquarium.

At the capitol, the scholars heard from Alyse Murray of Georgia EMC about the significant roles EMCs play in Georgia. Murray explained how she got started in her role, and gave some advice as the students move toward graduation. The group also learned from a historian at the University of Georgia, as they toured the building, sat in the senate chambers and learned about the rich history of our state.

Submerged in a world of sea life, the students learned about the important aquatic life that supports Georgia’s ecosystems and our world at the Georgia Aquarium. Students also participated in animal encounters, as they watched a dolphin show and visited several exhibits. The students took a Behind the Seas Tour of the aquatic wonderland, learning how professionals work each day to care for the fish and sea mammals.

At the World of Coca-Cola, students learned about the

Georgia-based bank that housed the vault containing the top-secret formula for the world’s most famous carbonated beverage. Students got a chance to taste flavors from around the world and grabbed a few goodies from the experience.

The Georgia Youth Tour ended with dinner and a certificate presentation for their participation and hard work in the classroom, which led them to the trip. Each student will receive a \$2,500 scholarship for college, once accepted and enrolled.

We hope to participate in the Washington Youth Tour in 2023. Be on the lookout for updates next spring (39264-001).

## Jefferson Energy Cooperative’s Bright Ideas Grant

**W**e are now accepting educator applications for the 2022-23 Bright Ideas grant program. All entries are due Sept. 30 by mail or online. For rules, applicant qualifications, a list of participating schools and an FAQs, visit [www.jec.coop](http://www.jec.coop) or scan the QR code.

JEFFERSON ENERGY COOPERATIVE'S  
**Bright Ideas 2022**

**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS**

**BRIGHT IDEAS**

FIND OUT HOW TO WIN A **\$1,000.00 GRANT** FOR YOUR CLASSROOM PROJECT BY VISITING [WWW.JEC.COOP](http://WWW.JEC.COOP) - CLICK ON COMMUNITY.

THE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS **SEPTEMBER 30, 2022.**

For more information **877-533-3377 ext. 5055**



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## Jefferson Energy Cooperative

### Jefferson Energy Cooperative

P.O. Box 457  
3077 Highway 17 N  
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[www.jec.coop](http://www.jec.coop)

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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.*



## Payment Options

Due to circumstances outside Jefferson Energy's control, the kiosk located at the Sprint Food Store at Deans Bridge Road and Morgan Road has been removed. Although this option is no longer available, we still have multiple ways for you to pay your bill.

Visit our website at <https://onlinebilling.jec.coop/onlineportal/> and pay online or pay while shopping at multiple locations across the CSRA, including CVS, Dollar General, Walgreens and Family Dollar. You can also receive your barcode to use our Checkout system at <https://jec.sedccheckout.com/> or call (706) 547-2167.

## Back-to-School Message

We would like to wish every educator and student headed back to the classroom a safe and productive year. As we work to keep the classrooms bright we know you will do an amazing job of keeping your minds even brighter (10018887-002).



### Holiday Office Closing

All Jefferson Energy office will be closed Monday, Sept. 5, in observance of Labor Day.