



JULY 2026



CONNECT

A newsletter for the members of JEFFERSON ENERGY COOPERATIVE

America 250: Powered by Cooperation, Driven by Progress

As we begin celebrating America's 250th anniversary, it's a perfect moment to reflect on just how far our nation—and our communities—have come. From candlelight to modern convenience, the story of electricity is closely tied to the story of America's growth, resilience and innovation.

Back in 1776, electricity wasn't part of everyday life. In fact, it would take more than a century before electric power began reaching homes, and even longer for it to make its way to rural communities. By the early 1930s, nearly 90% of urban Americans had electricity, but only about 10% of rural homes did (10028978-002).

Fomer President Franklin D. Roosevelt saw the need for rural electricity firsthand during his frequent visits to Warm Springs. Traveling through the countryside, he noticed cities were bright with electric lights, while nearby farms and roads remained in darkness. He also recognized how the lack of electricity made travel and daily life more difficult for rural families. These experiences shaped his belief that electricity was essential for improving safety, quality of life and economic opportunities. On May 11, 1935, President Roosevelt established the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) through an executive order as part of the New Deal. A milestone that helped bring power and opportunity to rural America.

Soon after, the first electric cooperatives were formed in 1935, built on a simple but powerful idea: neighbors working together to improve their quality of life. Just two years later, in 1937, Jefferson Energy Cooperative was established, joining a growing movement that would forever transform rural communities across the nation.

Today, as we celebrate 250 years of American independence, we can also celebrate the power of cooperation. Electric cooperatives like Jefferson Energy Cooperative have played a vital role in powering homes, businesses, schools and farms,



helping communities thrive and grow. What began as a mission to bring basic electricity has evolved into delivering reliable, affordable energy, while also supporting local economic development and innovation.

From electric lamps and refrigerators to electric grids and smart technology, electricity has helped shape the modern American experience, and cooperatives have been at the heart of that progress. Unlike traditional utilities, co-ops are member-owned and community-focused, meaning every improvement and every mile of line built is a direct investment in the people we serve.

As we honor America's 250th birthday, we're proud to be part of a legacy that continues to power progress. The same spirit

of independence and collaboration that defined our nation's founding still shines brightly in electric cooperatives today. Here's to 250 years of America, and to the power that keeps us moving forward!

JEC Tools for You



Jefferson Energy Cooperative offers leveled billing, which helps spread energy costs more evenly throughout the year to help assist with bill planning and budget management.

Members can also monitor their energy use through the online portal at www.jec.coop, where you can track use and set daily, weekly or monthly alerts to help stay on budget (10072018-001).

These simple steps don't require big upgrades; just smart habits that save energy and lower your bill while keeping your home comfortable.



HAPPY Fourth of July INDEPENDENCE DAY

Holiday Office Closing

Jefferson Energy Cooperative's offices will be closed Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day.

Stay Cool and Save Energy This Summer



Simple, low-cost changes that can help make a real difference on your monthly summer energy bill may include:

- Setting the thermostat wisely. Keep it at 78 degrees when you're home and a little higher when you're away (10032310-001).
- Using ceiling fans (the right way). Run fans counterclockwise in the summer to push cool air down, then turn them off when you leave the room.
- Closing blinds during the peak heat hours. Add blackout curtains or thermal curtains for better insulation.
- Sealing air leaks around windows and doors.
- Changing your air filter regularly.
- Avoiding heat buildup inside by cooking with a microwave, grill or slow cooker instead of the oven.
- Running dishwasher and laundry at night when it's cooler.
- Replacing aging appliances. If an appliance is struggling or needs frequent repairs, replacing it may save more in the long run.
- Unplugging electronics you're not using, such as a TV, desktop computer or large appliances during the day.
- Washing clothes in cold water.

Celebrating Success

JEC Foundation Celebrates Class of 2026 Scholarship Recipients



Each year, the Jefferson Energy Cooperative Foundation proudly awards scholarships to outstanding graduating seniors from homes served by Jefferson Energy Cooperative. These scholarships honor students for their academic achievements, involvement in their communities, participation in school activities and the strength of their personal essays, which reflect their dedication and future potential.

These scholarships are made possible through the Operation Round Up program and unclaimed capital credits. Operation Round Up is a program in which members' electric bills are rounded up to the nearest dollar each month, with the extra cents directed to the Jefferson Energy Cooperative Foundation (10065846-001).

Unclaimed capital credits are margins allocated to members based on their electricity use, and if these credits go unclaimed, the funds are used to support the community. For more information on capital credits, visit www.jec.coop/about-jec/capital-credits.

Together, these programs fund scholarships and initiatives, helping support students through the foundation each year.

For 2026, 32 outstanding students representing 15 high schools and two colleges were recognized. We applaud these exceptional students for their dedication, achievements and perseverance.

Congratulations to the Class of 2026! We wish each of you continued success as you take the next steps toward a bright and promising future.

2026 Schools and Recipients

Brentwood School

Alyssa Boyen

Briarwood Academy

Brantley Myhand
Chant Brooks
Thomas Bowick

Cross Creek High School

Brad Brock

Georgia College and State University

Benjamin Brown

Georgia School for Innovation and the Classics

Abigail Brown

Glascok County Consolidated School

Payton Parrish

Greenbrier High School

Kyle Rodgers

Harlem High School

Alexis Sanchez
Luca Albuquerque
Ruben Sanchez
Wyatt Smolley

Hephzibah Comprehensive High School

Mya Byrdsell
Taylor McClendon

Jefferson County High School

Ariana Perez-Roblero
Isaiah Scott
Jakaya Gray
Kyndal Hickson
Tessa Hayes

Kennesaw State University

Selayia Franklin

Lakeside High School

Noah Riley

Lucy Craft Laney High School

Leilani Moore

Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School

Timothy Carter

Swainsboro High School

Yasmin Rios

Thomas Jefferson Academy

Brianna Hennessy
Laura Hayes
Lexie English
Lindsey Brady

Thomson High School

Alayna Harris
Ashlyn Leslie
Elizabeth Nelson



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

WAYNE A. GOSSAGE, JR.

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

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED:

Independence Day, July 3

Labor Day, Sept. 7

Thanksgiving, Nov. 26-27

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. You may also text "OUTAGE" to 877-JEFFERSON (877-533-3377) to communicate your issue.

Jefferson Energy Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Sweet Stars and Stripes Parfaits

A cool treat that saves energy while celebrating America 250!

Ingredients

- 4 clear cups or mason jars
- 2 tablespoons granola or vanilla wafers, crushed
- 1 cup vanilla yogurt or pudding
- 1 cup fresh strawberries, hulled and sliced
- 1 cup whipped topping or heavy whipping cream
- 1 cup fresh blueberries



Instructions

Layer each cup or mason jar starting with a base layer of granola or vanilla wafer. Layer vanilla yogurt or pudding, then strawberries, whipping topping or cream, then blueberries. Repeat layers until cups or jars are full.

Top with a dollop of whipped topping or cream and a few berries. Serve chilled and enjoy.

Switch to E-Check

A safer, faster and easier way to pay by check

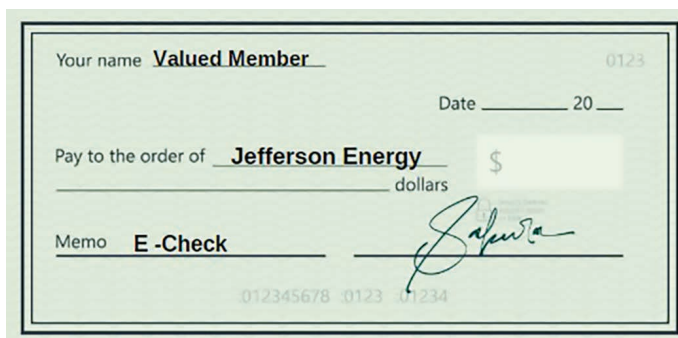
Are you still paying your bill by check? Let Jefferson Energy help you with a more reliable and secure payment method.

Did you know that between the rising costs of postage, postal delivery delays and potential check washing (also known as fraud), paying by check has become more difficult?

Jefferson Energy is now offering an **E-Check** solution for members who traditionally pay by check. This option:

- Allows our EMC to post your payment immediately, reducing the risk of a late payment due to postal carrier delays.
- Keeps your checking information secure and safely stored in our information system, which lowers your risk of fraudulent activity.

Give us a call at (706) 547-2167 to learn how you can sign up for E-Check today.



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