

FEBRUARY 2025



# CONNECT

A newsletter for the members of JEFFERSON ENERGY COOPERATIVE

## Love for Our Members This February *Celebrating Our Community*

**A**s February rolls around, love is in the air! While many are busy planning for Valentine's Day, here at Jefferson Energy Cooperative (JEC), we are taking this time to reflect on our deepest commitments—our love for our members and the communities we serve.

At the heart of our cooperative is a simple, yet powerful idea: We exist to serve you. Every day, our dedicated team works hard to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity to your homes and businesses. But our commitment goes beyond delivering power; it's about building strong, lasting relationships with each member of our cooperative (10082771-001).

This month, we encourage you to take a moment and think about the incredible community we are part of. Whether it's the friendly faces you see at the local grocery store, laughter shared at community events or support offered during challenging times, our bonds are what make our community truly special.

This February, let's celebrate our love for our community and the unique connections we have with each other. Thank you for being a valued member of our cooperative. Your support not only powers your homes and businesses but also fuels our commitment to community, innovation and sustainability. Happy February!



## Jefferson Energy Foundation Scholarship

**W**e are now accepting applications for the JEC Foundation Scholarship. The last day to submit applications is March 28.

Applications will be accepted **ONLINE ONLY** and can be found at [www.jec.coop/community/foundation-scholarships](http://www.jec.coop/community/foundation-scholarships).



The deadline to submit applications is March 28.



## Post-Storm Cleanup Continues

**F**ollowing Hurricane Helene, Jefferson Energy Cooperative initiated post-storm procedures to restore the electrical system to as close as possible to pre-storm conditions. The first phase currently underway is the post-storm damage assessment. This assessment will identify vegetation right-of-way issues, JEC material debris cleanup, as well as construction issues that need to be corrected. The vegetation right-of-way issues will involve the removal of trees and limbs damaged from the hurricane that may pose risks to our power lines and cause additional outages (10057675-002).

While we are dedicated to restoring the system and ensuring reliable service, it's important to recognize that the damaged trees continue to present a threat to our power lines and may lead to more frequent outages until the system can be restored to normal. We appreciate your understanding as we work through these challenges and power is restored to its usual state. Also, we will be relocating sections of downed trees that are currently



in the right-of-way to allow JEC vehicles and equipment to travel safely between poles. Our cleanup efforts will focus on removing these hazards and any materials left behind during restoration efforts, to ensure your safety and reliable service. Please understand that this process may take several months as we prioritize thoroughness and safety.



Join us Thursday, Feb. 20, at 6 p.m. in the Assembly Room at our Wrens office!

### Join Us for Our Directors Town Hall

**W**e invite you to join us for an informative Directors Town Hall, where JEC members can learn more about your cooperative and the initiatives we're taking on your behalf. This is a great opportunity to engage with your JEC Board of Directors and learn how we are working to serve you better (10058991-001). Your membership matters!

# Plugged In Georgia

**P**lugged In Georgia is a grassroots platform designed specifically for Georgia's electric membership corporations (EMC) that allows EMC advocates to receive the latest updates on legislation impacting Georgia's electric market.

Plugged In Georgia allows users to connect directly with their legislators and share EMC policy positions on proposals that impact the EMCs' mission of delivering safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Engage with legislators through the Georgia EMC Government Relations team's Plugged In Georgia grassroots platform.
- Receive the most recent updates throughout the legislative session and inform legislators of EMCs' policy priorities.

## WHY IT MATTERS

- Legislators want to hear from **YOU**.
- EMC members can contact their legislators directly through the platform to share EMCs' policy positions and concerns.

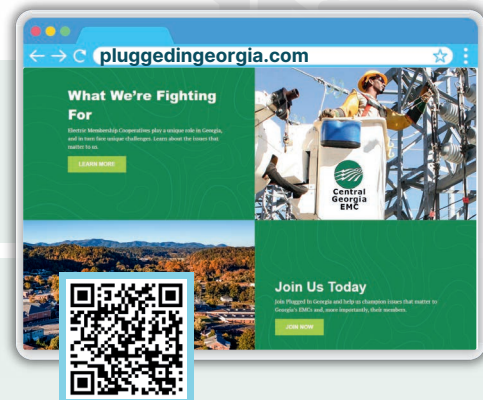
## WHAT TO EXPECT

- Quarterly updates from Plugged In Georgia.
- Pertinent messages throughout the legislative session with how you can support EMC policy priorities.
- Opportunities for EMCs to share positions with legislators directly.



## Plugged In Georgia

Powered by **Voices for Cooperative Power**



# Treat Your Valentine to Energy Savings

**H**ere are four ways to celebrate Valentine's Day with a special dinner that's romantic *and* energy saving:

- ♥ Whip up a feast in the slow cooker or air fryer, which use far less energy than your stove top or oven. A bonus: You'll only have one pot to wash after dinner.
- ♥ Unplug your phones, the TV, your laptop and other electronic distractions so you and your Valentine can focus only on each other (10075925-001).
- ♥ Eat dinner by candlelight. Turn off the overhead lights and lamps—or at least most of them. A candlelight dinner is romantic and saves energy.
- ♥ After packing leftovers for the refrigerator, let them sit on the counter to cool down for a little while. Placing hot food in the fridge can heat up the appliance and make it work harder to stay cold.





# CONNECT

## Jefferson Energy Cooperative

### Jefferson Energy Cooperative

P.O. Box 457  
3077 Highway 17 N  
Wrens, GA 30833-0457  
[www.jec.coop](http://www.jec.coop)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**LARRY HADDEN**

*Chairperson, North Region*

**THOMAS PHELPS**

*Vice Chair, North Region*

**JAMES L. GAY**

*Secretary/Treasurer, South Region*

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*Richmond County Region*

**JOE SHURLEY**

*North Region*

**DEREK PARTRIDGE**

*Richmond County Region*

**RHONDA DAIGS**

*Richmond County Region*

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*

*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.*

## Engineering Department Appreciation

**W**e want to take a moment to recognize the JEC Engineering Department. This team works behind the scenes every day to ensure our members are supported. From system engineers to apparatus and system operators, the Engineering Department uses electrical evaluations, calculations, and creative and inventive ways to help our members. Thanks for all you do!



### Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month



If you have a home office, look for opportunities to save energy in your workspace. Use Energy Star-rated equipment, which consumes up to 50% less energy than standard models. Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life. Another way to save energy in your home office is to use efficient lamps for task lighting. Replace any older bulbs with energy-saving LEDs.

—Source: [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)

**.HAPPY.**  
**Valentine's Day**

*Jefferson Energy Cooperative*