

POWERING ON: STANDBY GENERATORS ARE FOR EVERY SEASON



Why Generators Make Good Business Sense

Jackson Electric recently became a certified Generac generator and Interstate Battery dealer. Two sizes of generators are in stock: 14 kW and 24 kW, and both include pricing with a cold weather package and disconnect transfer switch. Batteries and pads are sold separately and are available for purchase from Jackson Electric.

A couple of our local business owners shared with us why a standby generator benefits their business during a lengthy power outage.

Pat Brauner, owner of Brauner's Garage

"If you're a business owner, you need to sit down and figure out your cost per hour to operate and put that money towards the purchase of a generator," says Jackson Electric member Pat Brauner, owner of Brauner's Garage.

Jackson Electric is a certified dealer of Generac automatic standby generators. Last fall, Pat and his wife, Judy, purchased Generac automatic standby generators from Jackson Electric for both their home and business. For years, they talked about installing generators at both locations, not only for bad weather backup, but also in anticipation of the future grid. When the timing was right, Pat contacted Jackson Electric to learn more about the generators. "We were in the right financial position where we could afford it, so we opted to have them installed," Pat shares. "The crew did a great job with the installation."

Generac standby generators can be interconnected to your existing natural gas or LP supply; the Brauners have each type of fossil fuel available. When the power goes out, the generator automatically detects there is an issue and restores power to your whole house or only key items in your home or business, depending on the size and set up of your system.

The Brauners' generator purchases proved to be a wise investment during the December 2022 storm and the more recent April snowstorm. Pat recalls that Judy was babysitting their grandson the first day of the December outage. When the power went out and stayed out, the generator worked flawlessly. "Everything functioned like it never went off," says Pat.

If you depend on electricity for business functions or have a medical necessity that requires you to have continuous power, you need to have a



backup plan in place or seriously consider a standby generator. For business owners like Pat, loss of power isn't an option. "People depend on us. They need their car," says Pat. "Without power, we'd be unable to operate our shop and computers."

Pat and Cindy Shramek, owners of ASAP Septic Pumping

After the December storm-related outages, business owners Pat and Cindy Shramek of ASAP Septic Pumping expressed interest in a Generac standby generator for their home business after losing power for just a few hours. However, they were still much more fortunate than the members who were out for days. Their plan was to do an installation in spring/summer 2023.



Cindy Shramek

During the April snowstorm, Cindy recalls figuring out what jobs they could physically get to with the trucks that day due to all the snow when the power went out about 6:40 a.m. It was a Monday morning, and she had luckily already listened to her messages from over the weekend for callbacks that she needed to do. "Our business phone is a landline. I preferred not to, but I ended up having to call customers back on my cell phone, which did throw some people off at first because they didn't recognize the number," she says.

In addition to her phone, Cindy also did not have access to her business computer and customer software. Power was restored at about 6 p.m. that night, and she was able to catch up on emails. "I spent the next day catching up, updating my records and processing billing," she says.

You never truly appreciate the convenience of electricity until you're without it. For Pat's side of business operations,

the greatest inconvenience was getting the trucks out of the shop by climbing over 14 feet to open two electric-powered garage doors by hand. The resistance of the wind made it easier said than done. “A generator is an investment for our business. Even though the power is out, we have people depending on us to provide a service,” Pat concludes. “I want to be prepared for any future and more extensive outages.”

Is a Standby Generator Right for Me?

Many members were left without power, some for days, in the December 2022 storm. After power is restored, it’s easy to fall into old routines and take for granted the value of electricity, until the next outage occurs, such as the April storm. We forget that outages can happen at any time, during any season.

After a large outage, we field many inquiries about the purchase of generators. Jackson Electric is not in the generator business for-profit, but rather to provide our community with

a local source. Like our other services, we want you to be comfortable with your purchase.

Standby generators are an investment, so you need to evaluate your needs. Ask yourself these questions:

- Do you need an automatic standby generator, or will a manual generator get you by?
- How many significant outages have you experienced?
- Does your outage history make it practical to invest in a generator?
- Do you rely on electricity to operate a medical device?
- Do you have family members living with you who have medical needs that require electricity to live comfortably during a power outage?

If you’ve considered these questions and feel a standby generator is the right investment for you, give Jackson Electric a call at 715.284.5385 to discuss your needs.—*Brandi Shramek, Member Relations Advisor*



BUYING, SELLING, OR RENTING:

We need to hear from you

Whenver a Jackson Electric service location is being transferred, we need to hear from all involved parties to ensure the proper handling of the electric service and avoid any service interruptions. Never assume that someone else has taken care of it.

Selling a Property When you sell your property, a call to Jackson Electric is a must. A member service representative will ask your last day for service, who is buying the property, and your forwarding address. In most cases, we will also have you sign an Electric Service Status Form, especially if we have not already heard from the buyer. Signing this form allows us to finalize your account and possibly disconnect service if the buyer fails to contact us or hasn’t met membership requirements within a week of the effective date.

- Moving to another Jackson Electric service location: We will need to know your updated address and effective start date of the new location.
- Moving off Jackson Electric’s service lines: Please provide your forwarding address for any future correspondence and capital credit retirements. If applicable, your final billing statement will be mailed to your new address.

Buying a Property If you are not a member or your membership has been inactive for more than one year, you will need to complete a membership application and meet membership requirements. If membership requirements are not met or are incomplete, Jackson Electric may disconnect service until requirements have been fulfilled. The transfer date listed on the application will be verified with the seller.

Tenants If you are moving into a rental property and are not a member or your membership has been inactive for more than one year, you will need to complete a membership

application and meet membership requirements. If membership requirements are not met or are incomplete, Jackson Electric may disconnect service until requirements have been fulfilled. We will also confirm the correct transfer date with the landlord. A completed landlord agreement from your landlord must be on file at our office.

If you are moving out of a rental property, go to jackelec.com or contact our office to request a tenant intent to vacate form. We will use this form to finalize your account and confirm the transfer date with your landlord.

Landlords Landlords will need to complete a landlord property agreement and have this agreement on file before service is transferred (available online). This form tells us whether a property is supposed to transfer to a tenant’s name or if the landlord wishes to keep it in their name. If you are a landlord and keep service in your name, you are responsible for the electric bill. If you do not wish to be held responsible for your tenant’s bill, you will need to select the tenant responsible option, and your tenant will need to take out their own membership. Please note that Jackson Electric cannot discuss the tenant’s account or billing information unless the tenant has signed an Authorized Party form allowing Jackson Electric to do so. Jackson Electric does not notify landlords of disconnection status.

If the service needs to be transferred into the landlord’s name, then they must be an active member or have an updated member application on file and be in good standing. Jackson Electric will attempt to confirm the transfer with the tenant and obtain a forwarding address. We will not get involved with evictions.

*If you were a previous member of Jackson Electric and left an overdue balance, we will not allow a new account to transfer into your name until the collections balance is paid. If you move off our lines and the final billing statement is not paid, the balance will be turned over to collections, which will affect your credit score.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE INVESTING IN SOLAR

Solar systems are an investment. Before making the commitment to install solar, there are some things that we recommend you consider and understand before signing the contract.

Why do I want to invest in solar, and can I afford it?

We oftentimes hear members say they want to invest in solar for the green factor and to reduce their carbon footprint. They feel it's the right thing to do for the environment and their children and grandchildren's future.

Some want to eliminate their electric bill; be more energy independent.

Investing in solar is no small decision and the price tag may be more than you expect. For a system that offsets the consumption or usage of a household with moderate usage, expect a starting cost around \$24,000. If you plan to finance this system, you need to factor in your monthly finance payments into your payback. Chances are your system won't produce enough to cover your monthly loan payment.

Am I currently using energy as efficiently as possible?

Determine if there are ways to reduce your energy consumption before jumping into a solar contract. Does your home need insulation? Do you have air leaks that need to be sealed? Do your appliances need an upgrade? Making simple upgrades to improve your home's efficiency or changing your habits are the most affordable, practical first steps to take.

Solar systems should be sized to offset your energy consumption. Reducing your consumption will reduce the size of the system recommended, saving you money in the long run by not investing it in an oversized, unbeneficial system.

Jackson Electric's staff can assist you in reviewing your past energy consumption and identifying trends. We can offer recommendations on how to reduce your energy consumption and/or refer you to consider a home energy audit.

Talk to your electric utility first.

No matter what solar company you plan to work with, your first call should be to your electric utility to learn about their policies, requirements, fees, and an explanation of how your electric bill will look after solar is installed. There's nothing worse than making this investment to only learn that what you were promised by the solar company isn't the electric utility's policy.

How does solar energy work?

The simplest explanation begins with the solar panels themselves. Energy from the sun is converted into electricity. Next, the inverter converts the electricity from DC (direct current) to AC (alternating current). The energy produced by your panel is then delivered to your home to meet its energy needs.


If more energy is generated than what your home needs, the electricity is sent back to the grid. Jackson Electric uses a production meter to track solar production. At the end of the month, some or all of your consumption may be offset by the solar's production. Any excess production from your solar system is banked to be used toward your consumption the next month.

The sun doesn't shine at night, and your solar system won't have as much production in the winter or on cloudy days. During these times, you'll be more likely to consume more energy than your system can produce. Solar will offset some of your consumption but not 100% of it. If you want the conveniences that electricity provides, you will still need to be interconnected to the power grid.

If you want to learn more about investing in solar energy, please contact our office at 715.284.5385. Jackson Electric and JacksonSolar, LLC are both under the same roof, and we would appreciate the opportunity to work with you on your solar energy investment.



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He started out as a lineman, and now he's Jackson Electric's new technology administrator. Spencer Paulson started his Jackson Electric career in May 2017 as a 1,000-hour employee and thereafter was offered a line worker apprenticeship. "My grandpa was a lineman, so that's where my interest originated," says Spencer. "Prior to Jackson Electric, I completed the electrical line worker program through Northwest Lineman College in Denton, Texas," he says.

With recent retirements at Jackson Electric, Spencer transitioned into information technology responsibilities, bringing with him his field experience from being a lineman and radio supervisor experience from the Marine Corps, where he served for five years. "I enjoyed the outdoor work as a lineman, but I'm looking forward to the learning opportunities in my new position. I enjoy the troubleshooting side of IT," Spencer shares.

When Spencer's not monitoring the IT network or dispatching outages, you'll find him spending time with his family and four dogs, golfing, and hunting.

SUMMER ENERGY CHARGES

Starting with your July billing statement, June usage, the regular residential energy charge will switch to the summer energy charge. This charge will be in effect with the June, July, and August usage.

The wholesale cost of energy is higher during the summer months due to higher electric demand. With the summer heat, cooling systems are operating, and other equipment tends to work harder to maintain its temperature.

Sales Tax A sales tax will be applied to your electric bill for electric usage in the months of May through October. According to Wisconsin Statute 77.54(30)(a) 2, "Electricity and natural gas sold during the months of November, December, January, February, March,

and April for residential use" are exempt from sales and use tax. This statute was enacted in 1995.

The state government regards electricity for residential use during the winter months as a necessity; therefore, it is exempt from sales tax during these months. "Residential use" is defined in the statute as a structure or portion of a structure which is a person's permanent principle residence. It does not include use in motor homes, travel trailer, other recreational vehicles, or transient accommodations.

If you feel your farming operation or business meets year-round tax exemption status, please confirm that you have a completed and signed Wisconsin Sales and Use Tax Exemption Certificate on file at Jackson Electric's office.

Federal Tax Credits and Local Rebates Available

Equipment Type	Tax Credit for Years 2023-2032	Jackson Electric Rebate for Year 2023
Heat Pumps	30% of cost, up to \$2,000/year	\$500/ton
Heat Pump Water Heaters	30% of cost, up to \$2,000/year	\$300
Geothermal Heat Pumps	30% of cost	\$500/ton
Solar	30% of cost	N/A
Electrical Panel or Circuit Upgrades for New Electric Equipment	30% of cost, up to \$600 (subject to cap of \$1,200/year)	N/A
Insulation Materials	30% of cost (subject to cap of \$1,200/year)	N/A unless a home energy audit is conducted
Windows, including Skylights	30% of cost, up to \$600 (subject to cap of \$1,200/year)	N/A
Exterior Doors	30% of cost, up to \$500 for doors (up to \$250 each; subject to cap of \$1,200/year)	N/A

Qualified equipment only. To determine if you qualify for a tax incentive, contact your tax preparer. Contact Jackson Electric for rebate qualifications and more information on other rebates available.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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