

Currently Speaking

Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

17 S. Liberty St.
New Concord, Ohio 43762
800-521-9879
www.gmenergy.com

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Jim Rex Chairman
Jay Gray Vice Chairman
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Brian Hill Director
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Joseph P. Boeckman Counsel
Jerry Kackley, General Manager/CEO

Electric Rates

Farm and Home Service rate schedule R-1*

Service Availability Charge	\$18/month
First 500 kWh/month	12.769¢/kWh
Over 500 kWh/month	@ 10.645¢/kWh

Seasonal Residential Service annual rate schedule S-1*

Service Availability Charge	\$216/year
First 800 kWh/year	@ 20.769¢/kWh
Over 800 to 6,000 kWh/year	@ 11.645¢/kWh
Over 6,000 kWh/year	@ 10.645¢/kWh

(Your minimum annual charge will be \$216 per year for service between March 1, 2016, and Feb. 28, 2017.)

Commercial Service rate schedule C-1*

Service Availability Charge	\$18/month
First 1,500 kWh/month	@ 12.769¢/kWh
Over 1,500 kWh/month	@ 10.645¢/kWh

*Rider T —

Kilowatt-Hour Tax applies to all rate schedules and must be added to the rates shown.

First 2,000 kWh/month	.465¢/kWh
Next 13,000 kWh/month	.419¢/kWh
Over 15,000 kWh/month	.363¢/kWh

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Which way is up?

AS WONDERFUL AS LIFE IS, it seems like my days are becoming more and more hectic. I'm not sure when I first heard the phrase "I'm so busy, I don't know which way is up," but I now have a greater appreciation for the meaning of those words.



Jerry Kackley,
General Manager/CEO

Our days are typically filled with numerous tasks that we must constantly juggle. Time is not infinite, so we struggle to balance work, family, and our own personal needs. This can leave us spinning in all directions wondering "which way is up."

The business of your cooperative is no different. As we prepared the budget for 2017, we did so with the knowledge that the weather and the economy could have a tremendous impact on our finances. We took our "best educated guess" in balancing the power costs, right-of-way costs, and other expenses against our expected revenues. We understand that there will be a need to adjust our actions as the year progresses.

Each day our employees come to work with a plan, hoping to accomplish the tasks of the day and prepare for tomorrow. But they often find that unexpected issues arise, and even the best plan is almost certain to change. From outages to member questions, interruptions are part of each day — but that is exactly why we are here. So I hope you always feel that you can call or stop by with your concerns or questions.

As we welcome 2017, let us do so with hope. Each day will bring uncertainty, but we should not fear that. Focus your attention on doing your best to balance all aspects of your life, but understand that you may "drop a ball" every now and then. Always make time for your family, especially your children, because each of them needs and deserves your guidance and love.

And, if you ever find that life is so hectic that you don't know "which way is up," remember that "up" is the direction God lifts you each time you kneel and pray.

Happy New Year! ☺

*Have a wonderful day!
God Bless! Jerry*

Happy New Year!

The office is closed Jan. 2.
Emergency service is available
at 800-521-9879.

Out with the old, in with the new — wishing you a happy and safe year the whole way through.



Completing a virtual home-energy audit

Assess your home's energy efficiency in just minutes

IS YOUR HOME USING ENERGY EFFICIENTLY? Unless it was built quite recently to stringent energy efficiency standards, there are bound to be areas of your home where you can improve efficiency, save money, and reduce your carbon footprint.

In a perfect world, your best option is to hire a trained professional to conduct a full-blown, in-home energy audit. This usually involves a detailed inspection of your home's insulation levels, HVAC system, lighting, appliances, and exterior space. A professional energy auditor will typically conduct a blower door test to check pressurization and spot hard-to-find leaks in the exterior. In addition, a professional may use a duct blaster to identify leaks in your home's ductwork.

One drawback to the in-home energy audit is finding a time that works with your busy schedule. An energy audit can take several hours when done correctly.

Luckily, there is a viable alternative: the online or "virtual" home energy audit. These online tools have come a long way over the last 10 years. Today's online energy audits are user-friendly and take only a few minutes to complete. An online energy audit can provide an assessment of your home's energy efficiency and typically provides helpful tips on how to reduce energy waste. The audits utilize sophisticated computer models that typically use local housing types — factoring in the age, size, flooring, and construction materials of the home — and local weather data.

I have used several of these audits and found they typically come within a dollar or two of my actual energy bills when fed the correct information. Amazing! True, the audit won't provide a pressurization test of your home and ductwork, but it is a convenient start.

Here's where to look for online audits:

- Visit GMEC's website at gmenergy.com, and click on the Home Energy Suite logo.
- Nearby utilities: They will include comparable weather and housing data, so the audit will be more precise.
- The Department of Energy: (<http://hes.lbl.gov/consumer/>)

A word of caution: Be careful when using online energy audit software provided by organizations other than utilities, government agencies, or universities. Unfortunately, some companies may try to obtain information to sell their own products and services. If you



Ray Crock,
Energy Advisor

see phrases like, "Learn what your power company does not want you to know" or the site looks like a marketing page, I'd suggest moving on. Unless you are dealing with a local electric co-op or your trusted fossil fuel provider, do not provide any personal information outside of your physical address (for data accuracy) or an email address for receiving a full report.

If an online energy audit doesn't interest you, fear not. The Department of Energy offers a DIY energy audit section on their website: <http://energy.gov/energysaver/do-it-yourself-home-energy-audits>.

The bottom line? Choose the energy audit that works for you, then implement as many of the recommendations as you can. Even taking small steps can add up to significant results, and you'll see the benefits in your utility bills for years to come. ☺

What you'll need for an online audit

Each audit is a little different. Below is a basic list of what you'll need to have before you begin. Be as accurate as possible without creating so much work for yourself that you regret taking the audit.

- Your home zip code — for weather and housing data
- Your average monthly electric bill
- Your electric rate
- Your average monthly fossil fuel bill(s) — oil, propane, and gas
- Your fossil fuel rate(s)
- Age of your home and general characteristics (size, floors, exterior materials)
- Age and number of appliances
- Type and age of heating and cooling systems
- How many incandescent, CFL, and LED lights you have

For questions or to schedule a free, full energy audit (including a blower door test and infrared scan), give us a call at 800-521-9879.

HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS:

Interested in a life-changing leadership experience in Washington, D.C.?

June 9-15, 2017

What is Youth Tour?

The Ohio's Electric Cooperatives Youth Tour is an annual leadership program sponsored by Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative. It's a weeklong, all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., that gives exceptional high school students the opportunity to meet with their Congressional leaders at the U.S. Capitol, make new friends from across the state and country, and see famous Washington sights.

Electric cooperatives from 43 states will send about 1,600 students this year for the annual tour. *Will you be one of them?*

For more information or to apply, visit www.gmenergy.com or call GMEC at 800-521-9879. Applications are due March 3, 2017, and applicants will be interviewed March 15.



Family Fun Day steals the show

About 350 guests attended Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Co-op's first-ever Family Fun Day on Oct. 1, 2016, at Deerasic Park in Cambridge.

During the afternoon, GMEC members and their families were treated to several activities, including canoeing, fishing, archery, shooting, and deer viewing. Those in attendance also played games, enjoyed the inflatable obstacle course, and watched the high-voltage safety demo presented by GMEC's lineman. Members were also able to come inside and enjoy hot dogs, cotton candy, ice cream, and popcorn served up by employees and directors.

A great day was had by all. We hope to see you next year for food, family, and wholesome fun!



Is your name and account number listed here?

If it is, call your cooperative's office and receive a FREE home change-out to compact fluorescent light-bulbs (limit 6 bulbs).

Thanks for reading the "local pages" of *Country Living* magazine.

#15-0068-02-02	Amanda L Parker
#47-0696-43-01	K Joseph Potts
#52-0077-02-01	James Edwards
#11-0665-34-00	Jerry Tysinger
#74-0077-27-00	Dean Newland
#17-0122-21-06	Carl Garner

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



According to the Consumer Electronics Association, the average household owns 24 consumer electronics products, which are responsible for 12 percent of household electricity use. ENERGY STAR®-certified audio/video equipment is up to 50 percent more efficient than conventional models.

Source: EnergyStar.gov

2017 GRADS:

You could win more than \$3,500 in our **Children of Members Scholarship** program!

FOR RULES AND APPLICATIONS:

Available in both boys' and girls' divisions with first-place winners receiving a \$1,000 GMEC scholarship

More funds available for Ohio's Electric Cooperatives' statewide winners

- Visit www.gmenergy.com
- Call GMEC's Heather Baker at 740-826-7661 or 800-521-9879
- Stop by the co-op office
- Pick them up from your guidance counselor
- Deadline to apply: Feb. 3, 2017

Graduating Seniors: Have you overcome unique and significant personal challenges on your way to academic excellence?

FOR RULES AND APPLICATIONS:

- Visit www.gmenergy.com
- Call GMEC's Heather Baker at 740-826-7661 or 800-521-9879
- Stop by the co-op office
- See your guidance counselor
- Deadline to apply: Feb. 3, 2017

First place wins \$500 and second place wins \$300 in the

**Touchstone Energy[®]
Achievement Scholarship**

Program!