

Currently Speaking

**Guernsey-Muskingum
Electric Cooperative, Inc.**
17 S. Liberty St.
New Concord, Ohio 43762
740-826-7661 — 800-521-9879
www.gmenergy.com

Board of Directors

Jim Rex.....Chairman
Jay GrayVice Chairman
Shirley StutzSecy.-Treasurer
Ed Bay Director
John Enos Director
Brian Hill Director
Duane Parks Director
Daniel J. Gunsett Counsel
Jerry Kackley ..General Manager/CEO

Electric Rates Farm and Home 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, 2014, and Feb. 28, 2015.)

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

Goodbye, 2014

I HOPE THAT ALL OF YOU enjoyed a blessed holiday season with family and friends. As I write this article for February's issue of Country Living, 2014 has only a few days left in it. I am amazed that another year has passed so quickly. My parents and grandparents always told me that time flies, and wow, were they ever right!

2014 was a good year for your cooperative for many different reasons. While the "polar vortex" we experienced last winter was no picnic for any of us, the increased sales that resulted put the co-op on firm financial ground. This carried us through a very mild summer and fall and enabled us to retire more patronage capital this year than in any other year in our history. Most of you would have seen this as a credit on your Dec. 10 bill. The stable power costs from Buckeye Power, our wholesale power supplier, also helped us to reduce rates to our members in 2014 by \$3 per 1,000 kWh, saving the average member around \$3 to \$4 per month. This follows no change in rates from 2013. The co-op was also fortunate that outages were minimal in 2014, but I always hesitate to print that information out of fear that I'll jinx us.

2015 is upon us, and it brings with it a whole new set of challenges and opportunities. My promise to you, our member-owners, is that each employee and board member of your cooperative will continue to focus on providing you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity. We are in this together, so we may call on you from time to time for your patience and understanding as we "weather storms" that life sends our way.

Now get out there and make sure that any groundhog that peeks out of his hole doesn't see a shadow or anything else that might convince him to go back to sleep. Spring will be here before you know it. And always remember: Even during the darkest time, there is always light. Simply bow your head, close your eyes and pray. Let compassion, hope, forgiveness, faith and love shine through. God is always listening. ☮



Jerry Kackley,
General Manager/CEO

Save *the* date:

The 78th Annual Meeting of Members

Make plans now to attend!

When: Saturday, April 11

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.

Business meeting begins promptly at noon

Where: Larry W. Miller Intermediate School,
New Concord

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Caulk up *the savings*

ASK YOUR ENERGY ADVISOR



Ray Crock,
Energy Advisor

THE GREATEST SOURCES of heating and cooling losses in your home are often invisible air leaks. Controlling air leaks is the best way to extend the life of your home, conserve energy, save money and increase comfort.

Bottom line? If you don't tighten up your home first, money spent on insulation may be wasted.

Fortunately, you can seal a lot of leaks around your home's exterior with less than \$100 worth of caulk. It's generally possible to seal openings up to one-quarter inch between window frames

and siding or around door frames. For larger gaps, add a backing material before caulking or use a spray foam sealant instead.

Most types of outdoor caulk are sold in tubes that fit a caulking gun. Some caulks come in aerosol cans; they're a good choice for filling gaps up to one-half inch around pipes and wires.

Prices range from a couple of dollars to \$10 or more per tube, so be sure to read the labels and choose a product that will adhere best to the materials you're sealing.

If your budget allows, spend a little more for a higher-quality caulk. Inexpensive caulks may last only a few years, while premium-priced caulks are rated for 20 years or more.

Caulk like a pro

- As a rule of thumb, you'll probably use half a cartridge per window or door and up to six cartridges for foundation work.

- Most caulks pose no known health hazards after they're fully cured. However, some high-performance caulking compounds contain irritating or potentially toxic ingredients, so you should carefully read the manufacturer's instructions and take the appropriate precautions.

- The best time to apply caulk is during dry weather when outdoor temperatures are above 45 degrees. Low humidity is important during application to prevent cracks from swelling with moisture.

- If the gap you're sealing is too wide, use a special filler made for the purpose. You'll find fillers in the caulking department of your local hardware store or home center. However, note that fillers are not designed for exposure to the elements, so you'll need to caulk or seal over it.

- Before applying new caulk, remove the old caulk or paint residue with a putty knife, stiff brush or special solvent.

- Make sure your work area is dry, so you won't seal in moisture.

- Hold the caulking gun at a consistent angle; 45 degrees is best.

- Caulk in a straight, continuous stream, avoiding stops and starts, and make sure the caulk sticks to both sides of the crack or seam.

- Send caulk to the bottom of an opening to avoid bubbles.

- Release the trigger on the caulking gun before pulling it away from the crack to prevent applying too much caulk. A caulking gun with an automatic release makes this much easier.

- Don't skimp. If the caulk shrinks, reapply it to form a smooth bead that completely seals the crack.

- If caulk oozes out of a crack, use a putty knife to push it back in.

- Once you've applied caulk, it takes time for it to dry, or cure. Curing time is described in two ways: The tack-free time tells you how quickly the fresh caulk's outer surface will dry or skin over. The total cure time indicates the time required for the caulk to become completely stable — the point where no further drying or shrinking will occur.

- Don't allow pets and small children to come into contact with fresh caulk. ☹



How to seal seasonal air leaks

Use removable, clear caulk around seasonally used windows, doors and other locations you want to be able to seal for a few months and open later. In the winter, use this product to keep out cold air around leaky basement windows; in the spring, use the caulk to eliminate air leaks (and bug entrances) around window air conditioners.

Operation Helping Others contributes nearly \$24,000 to neighbors in need

There are over 4,000 Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative members signed up to participate in Operation Helping Others (OHO). If you are one of those members, **THANK YOU**. If you are not familiar with OHO, here is how it works:

Electric bill: \$73.44
Round up and pay: \$74.00
Left over: 56¢

OHO is a voluntary program that rounds up your electric bill to the nearest dollar and uses the change as a donation. OHO is **not** a program to pay Guernsey-Muskingum electric bills. Funding comes entirely from members who voluntarily participate. The small change donated by members makes a big difference in our communities.

The 56 cents would be used locally as decided by the OHO committee. Every penny raised by your donations to OHO go toward assisting the needs in our community. The OHO committee consists of one appointed volunteer from each district. In 2014, your OHO committee granted **\$23,945.66** to be distributed to people in need in our community. At right is a list of the 2014 OHO recipients.

Grant	Date	Location of Recipient	Need of Recipient
\$500	2/24	Perry Twp., Tuscarawas Co.	Propane bill
\$1,000	2/24	Adams Twp., Guernsey Co.	Propane bill
\$620.98	2/24	Wheeling Twp., Guernsey Co.	New refrigerator
\$954.99	2/24	Perry Twp., Tuscarawas Co.	Medical expenses
\$200	2/24	Tuscarawas Co.	Charitable donation
\$200	2/24	Adams Twp., Guernsey Co.	Medical expenses
\$1,000	2/24	Cambridge Twp., Guernsey Co.	Improved seating
\$1,000	2/24	Springfield Twp., Muskingum Co.	Medicare payment
\$200	2/24	Westland Twp., Guernsey Co.	Medical expenses
\$2,000	5/19	Madison Twp., Guernsey Co.	Water system repairs
\$588.80	5/19	Oxford Twp., Guernsey Co.	Heating oil
\$500	5/19	Cambridge Twp., Guernsey Co.	Operating expenses
\$1,750	5/19	Highland Twp., Muskingum Co.	Operating expenses
\$2,500	5/19	Westland Twp., Guernsey Co.	Funeral expenses
\$500	5/19	Westland Twp., Guernsey Co.	Donation
\$800	8/25	Jackson Twp., Guernsey Co.	School expenses
\$700	8/25	Hopewell Twp., Muskingum Co.	Medical expenses
\$800	8/25	Union Twp., Muskingum Co.	Medical and travel expenses
\$1,000	8/25	Hopewell Twp., Muskingum Co.	Medical expenses
\$1,800	11/24	Rich Hill Twp., Muskingum Co.	Replace well
\$755	11/24	Adams Twp., Guernsey Co.	Mortgage payments
\$1,000	11/24	Wheeling Twp., Guernsey Co.	Replace well
\$1,075.89	11/24	Brush Creek Twp., Muskingum Co.	New furnace installation
\$50	11/24	Muskingum Co.	Thanksgiving drive
\$350	11/24	Noble Co.	Christmas drive
\$350	11/24	Muskingum Co.	Christmas drive
\$350	11/24	Guernsey Co.	Christmas drive
\$350	11/24	Tuscarawas Co.	Christmas drive
\$350	11/24	Morgan Co.	Christmas drive
\$350	11/24	Guernsey/Muskingum Co.	Christmas drive
\$350	11/24	Guernsey Co.	Christmas drive

HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS:

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

June 12-18, 2015

What is Youth Tour?



The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is an annual leadership program coordinated by Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative and its statewide service organization, Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc. 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 country and see many of the 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 and to apply, visit www.gmenergy.com or call 800-521-9879.

Applications are due March 6. All students will be interviewed on March 18.

GMEC's 2015 contractor maintenance programs

Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative has ongoing maintenance programs that are necessary to maintain safe and reliable electric service for the membership.

Throughout the GMEC system, Tom Hamlett of Penn Line Services, Inc., will be identifying ash trees outside the normal 40-foot right-of-way that are showing infestation of the emerald ash borer. He will be asking permission to cut or trim trees that appear to be harmful to the electric lines, even though they are outside the typical right-of-way. It is anticipated that the emerald ash borer will cause havoc for all Ohio electric utility companies for the next several years.

Tom will also perform electric line inspections, primarily in the Salt Fork and Cannelville substation areas. This is done to identify decaying or deteriorated power poles, conductors and associated equipment, allowing GMEC personnel to make repairs on a timely basis before the problem spots cause unplanned, lengthy outages. In addition, he will be reading meters and inspecting metering points and secondary voltage service lines on several selected circuits throughout the GMEC territory.

In January, the Asplundh Tree Expert Company began clearing trees from the rights-of-way and will continue around the following substations in this order: Antrim, Bethel, East Pointe and Dresden. Prior to this maintenance, Asplundh personnel will go door-to-door to discuss the necessary work. They will also obtain permission to cut or trim ash or other trees posing danger outside the normal 40-foot right-of-way, particularly focusing on the emerald ash borer-infested trees. They will apply herbicide in the Newcomerstown and Salt Fork substations beginning in May.

Your cooperation on these matters are appreciated and necessary to maintain a dependable electrical system.



An emerald ash borer feeds on an ash leaf. Source: Debbie Miller, USDA Forest Service/ Bugwood.org

Meter upgrades begin

Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative is in the process of changing out all mechanical disk-style meters. The new meters are electronic with a digital display. GMEC is replacing the old meters because electronic models are more accurate and cost less, and mechanical meters are no longer being supplied. It will take several years to complete this entire system upgrade, but the process has begun. As a member, your cooperative wants you to know the following:

- These are NOT smart meters and DO NOT send or receive data.
- You will continue to read your meter as you always have.
- Your meter will look different (see photos at right).
- The installer may be a GMEC employee or a contracted installer.
- GMEC is changing meters from the Pike and Cannelville substations first.
- Contractors will begin soon on the Cumberland and Dresden substations.
- The display

continuously changes from testing the entire display to displaying the kilowatt hour reading.

- The change will cause a very brief outage, perhaps a minute.
- The change can occur even if you are not at home.
- If you are not home, a notification will be hung on your door.
- Remember this notice because your change may occur next week or next year.

If you have questions, please call GMEC at 1-800-521-9879.



Digital meter



Mechanical meter

Is your name and location/ account number here?

If it is, call your cooperative's office and receive a **FREE** home change-out to compact fluorescent lightbulbs. (Limit 12 bulbs.) Thanks for reading the GMEC "local pages" of *Country Living* magazine.

- #11-0676-16-01 William F Davis
- #13-0013-45-17 William J Taisey Jr
- #18-0103-13-01 Kyle E Ullman
- #21-0122-01-01 Velva M Collins
- #25-0017-12-02 Richard C Banfield
- #32-0094-59-03 Elmer F Lentz

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Did you know that 90 percent of the energy used to operate a washing machine is from choosing hot water? A simple switch to cold can save a great deal of energy, and many detergents are now formulated for use in cold water. Consider air drying or line drying to save even more electricity.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy