

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 Gray Vice Chairman
Shirley Stutz Secy.-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 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, 2015, and Feb. 28, 2016.)

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

What a difference a year makes

OH WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES! As I look back at November and December, I am amazed at how mild these two months have been when compared to the same months in 2014. Now don't get me wrong, I'm not complaining. I really like wearing short-sleeve shirts in the winter. As I write this article, I am facing the final week of 2015, with temperatures expected in the 50s or 60s. As you read it in early February, you are probably looking outside to see whether the groundhog will see his shadow and return to his burrow, leaving us with six more weeks of winter. I have news for you, folks — I'm not sure the little critters have even gone to sleep yet.

The green grass and sunshine probably have them a bit confused.

But that is life in Ohio for you, unpredictable and exciting. The business of delivering electricity to your homes is no different. We face a number of obstacles each year, from weather to regulations, that keep our lives both unpredictable and exciting. This warm "winter" weather does not translate into strong sales for your co-op but, fortunately, we started 2015 with very strong sales. This has enabled us to focus resources on clearing dead ash trees that the emerald ash borer has left for us and replace poles that have seen better days.

I hope that our members noticed the credits on their December bills, as once again the co-op was able to return nearly \$450,000 as part of the general retirement of patronage. I also hope our members noticed that their rates were lower by \$3 per 1,000 kilowatt-hour in each of the last three months of 2015! While this was only a temporary reduction, it reflects the lower cost of power from Buckeye Power, our wholesale power supplier, and that savings is passed on to you.

2016 may not be as kind to us as 2015, but my crystal ball is still broken, so we'll just need to wait and see. But the employees, board members and I will continue to face the challenges and embrace the opportunities that 2016 may bring. With the support of our members and a little guidance from above, there is always reason to be optimistic. God bless. ☺



**Jerry Kackley,
General Manager/CEO**

Make plans now to attend ...
the 79th Annual Meeting of Members
Saturday, April 2

Registration: 9:30 a.m.
Business meeting begins promptly at noon
Larry W. Miller Intermediate School, New Concord



GMEC and partner donate combined \$10,000 to Genesis Healthcare Center

The seven cooperative principles were established in 1844 by the Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers in Rochdale, England, and have formed the basis for the principles on which cooperatives around the world operate to this day.

The seven principles are:

- Voluntary and Open Membership**
- Democratic Member Control**
- Members' Economic Participation**
- Autonomy and Independence**
- Education, Training and Information**
- Cooperation Among Cooperatives**
- Concern for Community**

“**Concern for Community**” is the seventh principle that guides all cooperatives, and it’s the one that led Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative to make a \$5,000 donation to the new Genesis Healthcare Center in Zanesville. This facility, which is now open, has and will continue to serve many cooperative and community members. The building expansion includes a new emergency/trauma department, an intensive care unit, a heart and vascular center, operating rooms, and a cancer care center. All inpatient rooms are private with three zones: one for the patient, one for visitors and one for staff.

The total cost of construction, equipment and furnishings was about \$200 million. Your board’s \$5,000 donation may seem small compared to the overall cost, but with a partner, your cooperative has been able to double that contribution.

One of Guernsey-Muskingum’s financial lenders, CoBank, offers matching grants to the local donations its customers make for worthy rural community projects. Guernsey-Muskingum applied for the matching grant, and CoBank selected the Genesis Project for an additional \$5,000. CoBank is a proud member of the Farm Credit System, based in Colorado.

Guernsey-Muskingum is enthusiastic about the improved medical services of Genesis and knows that it will be a valuable asset for the fine folks of Southeast Ohio.

(left) Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative Chief Executive Officer Jerry Kackley and Genesis Foundation Executive Director Paul McClelland



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Save energy and money by lowering your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. This will also slow mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.

Source: energy.gov

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 6 bulbs.)

Thanks for reading the GMEC “local pages” of *Country Living* magazine.

- #57-0039-03-00.....Charles L Gardner
- #41-0331-05-03.....Michael Campbell
- #51-0254-02-02.....Stanley Wilson
- #29-0272-23-02.....Robert Buzza
- #24-0401-45-06.....Michelle M Neal
- #14-0011-11-03.....Donald C Fath

TOP FIVE ENERGY USERS IN YOUR HOME

A starting point for savings

WHILE MOST HOMEOWNERS would like their homes to be more energy efficient and save money on their electric bills, it can feel overwhelming if you don't know where to begin. How can the average family use less energy, lower their utility bills and still meet their daily energy needs?

A good place to start is with the top five energy users in your home, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration:

1. Space cooling
2. Space heating
3. Water heating
4. Lighting
5. Refrigeration

Adjust the temperature

Together, home heating and cooling use the most energy and take the biggest bite out of your energy budget. On the bright side, there are ways you can achieve at least 10 percent savings by taking a few simple low-cost or no-cost steps:

- During cold weather, set your thermostat to 68 degrees Fahrenheit.
- During warm weather, the recommended indoor temperature is 78 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Cleaning the filters of your heating and cooling system can cut costs from 5 to 15 percent.
- Clean the coils around your electric baseboard heater to maintain maximum efficiency.
- Caulk and weather strip around windows and doors to prevent heat from escaping.

No matter what the climate or time of year, proper use of a programmable thermostat can save you 10 percent on your monthly utility bill.

Shine the light on savings

Take a fresh look at the lighting in your home. If you still use traditional incandescent lighting, your lightbulbs are operating at only 25 percent energy efficiency. Replacing your home's five most frequently used bulbs with ENERGY STAR-certified LEDs can save you \$75 per year. Another easy way to save is to always turn lights off in rooms that are not being used.

Water heating efficiency

Just as it is energy-wise to insulate your roof, wall or floor, it also pays to wrap your water heater with an insulating blanket. This is even more critical if you have an older unit. Make sure to follow

the manufacturer's instructions. For additional efficiency and savings, insulate exposed hot water lines and drain one to two gallons of water from the bottom of your tank annually to prevent sediment buildup.

Put cold hard cash back in your wallet

If your refrigerator was purchased before 2001, chances are it uses 40 percent more energy than a new ENERGY STAR model. If you are considering an appliance update, a new ENERGY STAR-rated refrigerator uses at least 15 percent less energy than non-qualified models and 20 percent less energy than required by current federal standards.

Regardless of the age of your fridge, there are additional steps you can take to save energy and money. For example, don't keep your refrigerator too cold. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends temperatures of 35 to 38 degrees Fahrenheit for the fresh food compartment and 0 degrees Fahrenheit for separate freezers used for long-term storage.

By understanding how your home uses energy, you can determine the best ways to modify energy use and keep more money in your wallet. For additional ways to save, contact Guernsey-Muskingum's energy experts at 740-826-7661. ☺

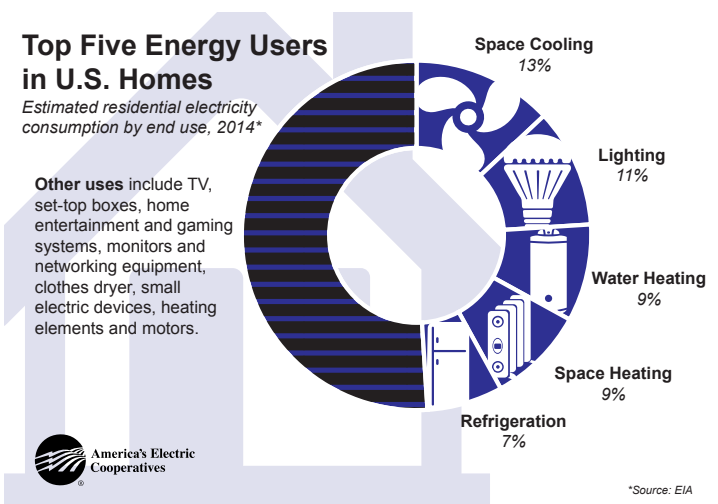


Ray Crock,
Energy Advisor

Top Five Energy Users in U.S. Homes

Estimated residential electricity consumption by end use, 2014*

Other uses include TV, set-top boxes, home entertainment and gaming systems, monitors and networking equipment, clothes dryer, small electric devices, heating elements and motors.



*Source: EIA

What is Operation Helping Others?

Program members donated nearly \$24,000 to help community members in need in 2015

There are over 4,000 Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative members who 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:

OHO is a voluntary program that rounds up your electric bill to the nearest dollar and uses the change as a donation to fund this project. 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. This is how it works:

Willie Wirehand's electric bill \$73.44
Willie rounds up his bill and pays \$74.00
Left over 56¢

The 56 cents from Willie Wirehand would be used in our local communities as decided by the OHO committee. Every penny raised by your donations to OHO go toward assisting people in need right here in our community.

The OHO committee consists of one appointed volunteer from each district. In 2015, your OHO committee granted \$23,945.66 to be distributed to causes in our community. Below is a list of OHO recipients for 2015.

OHO Grant Amount	OHO Meeting Date	Location of Recipient	Need of Recipient
\$2,500	2/23/15	Highland Township, Muskingum County	Donation
\$1,000	2/23/15	Cambridge Township, Guernsey County	Donation
\$500	2/23/15	Spencer Township, Guernsey County	Car repairs
\$1,623.80	2/23/15	Oxford Township, Guernsey County	Home repairs
\$489.95	2/23/15	Washington Township, Tuscarawas County	Home repairs
\$1,500	2/23/15	Monroe Township, Muskingum County	Home repairs
\$2,500	6/1/15	Millwood Township, Guernsey County	Home fire
\$1,889.42	6/1/15	Rush Township, Tuscarawas County	Medical expenses
\$1,566.73	6/1/15	Washington Township, Tuscarawas County	Home repairs
\$500	6/1/15	Westland Township, Guernsey County	Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
\$1,774.43	8/31/15	Linton Township, Coshocton County	Living expenses
\$2,000	8/31/15	Blue Rock Township, Muskingum County	Home fire
\$1,260.97	8/31/15	Rush Township, Tuscarawas County	Medical expenses
\$350	12/7/15	Noble County	Christmas drive
\$350	12/7/15	Muskingum County	Christmas drive
\$350	12/7/15	Guernsey County	Christmas drive
\$350	12/7/15	Tuscarawas County	Christmas drive
\$350	12/7/15	Morgan County	Christmas drive
\$350	12/7/15	Guernsey and Muskingum counties	Christmas drive
\$350	12/7/15	Guernsey County	Christmas drive
\$1,520.22	12/7/15	Blue Rock Township, Muskingum County	Property taxes
\$1,500	12/7/15	Richland Township, Guernsey County	Medical expenses
\$152.22	12/7/15	Perry Township, Tuscarawas County	Living expenses
\$2,000	12/7/15	Union Township, Muskingum County	Medical expenses
\$1,839.17	12/7/15	Brush Creek Township, Muskingum County	Handicap ramp
\$50	12/7/15	Guernsey and Muskingum counties	Canned food drive



YOUTH TOUR 2016

HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS:

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

June 10-16

What is Youth Tour?
 The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is an annual leadership program coordinated by Guernsey-Muskingum and Ohio's Electric Cooperatives. 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?

To apply for the Youth Tour: Successful applicants:

- must be a high school sophomore or junior.
- must be a son, daughter or legal ward of a Guernsey-Muskingum member living on the cooperative's lines and receiving electric service from the cooperative at the time of selection.

Visit gmenergy.com/content/youth-tour for rules and application.

Deadline to apply is **March 4**, with all applicants interviewed on **March 16**.

OHIO'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 