

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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Jay Gray Vice Chairman
Shirley Stutz Secy.-Treasurer
Ed Bay Director
John Enos Director
Brian Hill Director
Duane Parks Director
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.

Times are changing

THE UNPREDICTABLE NATURE of the weather in Ohio is amazing. As I shoveled five inches of snow from my sidewalks, I had to ask myself, “With all of the new, sophisticated, high-tech equipment, how in the world can a meteorologist miss his prediction by four and a half inches of snow for goodness’ sake?”

Oh well. I never would have predicted that I would find a wonderful wife and be married for thirty years, but I am only a few days away from celebrating that landmark occasion. I am blessed and I know it!

So, we must all learn to roll with the punches and face the challenges that life brings our way. No matter how wise we may think we are, the world around us constantly reminds us that we have a lot to learn.

As you have read the past few issues of *Country Living*, you may have gotten hints that change is coming. The magazine that many of us know and love will be going through a transition. Perhaps the biggest change you will notice is the name of the magazine. The cover of *Country Living* will soon reflect the name *Ohio Cooperative Living*. The view is that this new name is more reflective of the electric cooperatives around our great state that join together to produce the magazine for our members. *Ohio Cooperative Living* will continue providing you with information about our industry while also entertaining you with articles, information, recipes, and the occasional insights and wisdom of your general manager. That will not change. In fact, we sincerely hope you will find that the changes actually make the magazine better and more enjoyable to read.

Yes — times, they are changing; but change can be good. We listen to our members, so continue to provide us and the folks that publish *Ohio Cooperative Living* with your feedback. And remember: steak by any other name still tastes wonderful! That’s my own version of a classic quote (forgive me Shakespeare). ☺

*Have a wonderful day!
God Bless! Jerry*



Jerry Kackley,
General Manager/CEO

James promoted to engineering technician



Riley James

Riley James was hired in July 2016 as a part-time engineering intern. In December 2016, Riley was promoted to the position of engineering technician.

Riley is a graduate of Tri-Valley High School and will receive an associate degree in electrical/electronic engineering technology in May. While working as an intern, Riley was the recipient of the Ohio’s Electric Cooperatives’ \$1,600 Intern Scholarship. He resides in the Dresden area.

We welcome Riley to the cooperative crew!

Infrared should not be black and blue

Want to know what your home looks like in infrared?

IN TODAY'S ECONOMY, being energy efficient in your home is one way to cut costs and save money. Guernsey-Muskingum Electric can provide members with a free home energy audit to help start you down this path. Your energy advisor, Ray Crock, uses the latest technology to find air leaks within your home using a blower door and an infrared camera.

An infrared camera shows surface temperatures in color, with red and white being the warmest and blue to black being the coldest. This camera, teamed up with a blower door test — a machine that measures the airtightness of buildings — can find areas in your home where unsuspected leaks are creating increased energy usage. The blower door test uses a large fan that is capable of pulling up to 6,000 cubic feet per minute (CFM) of air flow. It will lower the air pressure in your home to a level comparable to a 20 mile per hour wind blowing on all four sides of your home.

The blower door is generally connected to the main entrance of the home. I especially like to use doors attached to garages, as they are protected from the wind. One important note: If you have a wood-burning stove or fireplace, the fire must be out and the ashes cleaned out. With the blower door and infrared camera running, we can

easily find leaks or spaces between ductwork that are costing you money. The infrared camera can also detect a lack of or missing insulation in walls and ceilings.

Once the test is completed, the member is given instructions and possible solutions to any issues found in the home. Remember that with the infrared camera, we do not want your home to be black and blue.

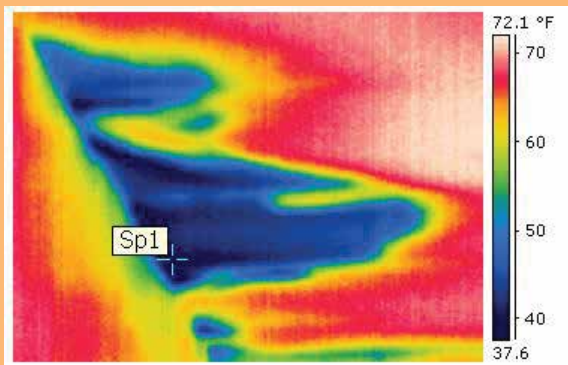
Winter is the best time to perform these home evaluations because there is usually a large temperature difference between inside and outside. This allows the thermal camera to “see” more problems. Every house is a unique situation — kind of like a puzzle. A few homes are very tight and really offer few opportunities for improvements. Others are so bad that some large items need to be fixed and a second blower door test performed to find the smaller leaks. Homeowners are typically surprised at what I find. Areas they think are problems are not, but other items end up being a problem.

There is no cost to schedule a home energy audit. Call 800-521-9879, and ask for Ray, your energy advisor. ☎

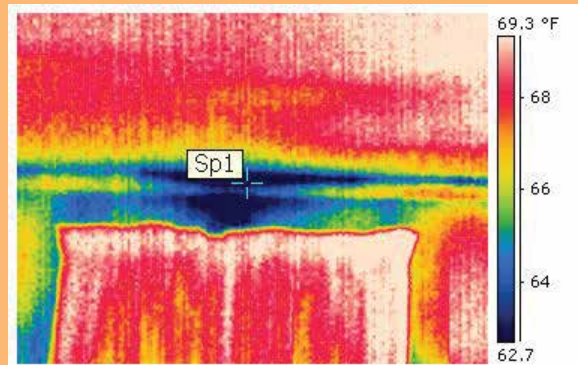


Ray Crock,
Energy Advisor

Infrared camera image 1



Infrared camera image 2



Is your home hiding cold spots that lack proper insulation? These images show infrared camera results after performing an energy audit inside a home. Image one, at left, shows a missing spot of cellulose insulation — the blue and black area, signaling a cold spot — in a home's attic. Image two, at right, shows air leakage and a lack of insulation — again, the blue and black areas — over a window. To schedule a free home energy audit, call 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.



Meter change out continues

Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative, Inc., is continuing to change all mechanical disk-style meters with new, electronic digital display meters. These electronic meters are more accurate and cost less. The change-out is also necessary because there is no supply of mechanical meters.

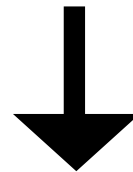
Your cooperative wants you to know the following:

- These are not smart meters and do not send or receive data.
- You will continue to read your meter as you always have.
- Your new meter will look different (please note the photos).
- The installer may be a GMEC employee or a contracted installer.
- Your reading will have intermittent blinks. This is normal.
- The change will cause a very brief outage of around a minute.
- The change will occur whether you are home or not. If you are not home, a notification will be hung on your door.
- If you have any questions, please call us at 1-800-521-9879.

Two substations remain to be changed: Bethel Church and Salt Fork substations. This will complete the meter change-out program.



Old mechanical meters



New electronic meters



Operation Helping Others gives over \$26,200 in 2016

Over 4,000 Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative members signed up to participate in Operation Helping Others (OHO). If you are one of those members, we 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 projects that help people in our local communities. OHO is not a program to pay GMEC electric bills. Funding comes entirely from members who voluntarily participate. The small change donated by members makes a big difference in our communities. Take for example Willie Wirehand's bill to see how OHO works.

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

The 56¢ from Willie Wirehand would be used in our local communities as decided by the OHO committee. Every penny raised by your donations to OHO goes toward assisting the needs in our community. The OHO committee consists of one appointed volunteer from each district.

In 2016, your OHO committee granted \$26,208.94 to needy causes in our community. Below is a list of OHO recipients for the 2016 year.

Grant amount	OHO meeting date	Location of recipient	Need of recipient
\$500	2/29/16	Cambridge Township, Guernsey County	Donation
\$2,500	2/29/16	Highland Township, Muskingum County	Donation
\$2,500	2/29/16	Adams Township, Guernsey County	Medical Expenses
\$300	2/29/16	Muskingum County, Ohio	Donation
\$1,470	5/23/16	Wills Township, Guernsey County	Donation, shoes for marching band
\$2,500	5/23/16	Guernsey County, Ohio	Donation, update computer systems
\$991.86	8/39/16	Oxford Township, Guernsey County	Home Repairs
\$578.08	8/29/16	Westland Township, Guernsey County	Home Repairs
\$2,069	8/29/16	Oxford Township, Tuscarawas County	Medical Expenses
\$1,000	8/29/16	Muskingum County	Facility Improvements
\$2,500	12/5/16	Highland Township, Muskingum County	Donation
\$300	12/5/16	Brush Creek Township, Muskingum County	New chainsaw
\$2,500	12/5/16	Wayne Township, Noble County	Home Repairs
\$2,500	12/5/16	Blue Rock Township, Muskingum County	Medical Expenses
\$500	12/5/16	Tuscarawas County, Ohio	Christmas Donation
\$500	12/5/16	Guernsey County, Ohio	Christmas Donation
\$500	12/5/16	Guernsey County, Ohio	Christmas Donation
\$500	12/5/16	Zanesville, Ohio	Christmas Donation
\$500	12/5/16	Guernsey County, Ohio	Christmas Donation
\$500	12/5/16	Guernsey & Muskingum County, Ohio	Christmas Donation
\$500	12/5/16	Noble County, Ohio	Christmas Donation
\$500	12/5/16	Zanesville, Ohio	Christmas Donation

Is your name and account number listed here?

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

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

- #15-0178-02-00
- #22-0258-29-02
- #55-0195-20-01
- #42-0057-30-06
- #35-0533-09-09
- #65-0010-23-01

- Phillip Mills
- Brett L Dingey
- Carrie R Rooks
- William R Pugh
- Chris A Booth
- Patricia Turney