



MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

STAY IN THE **KNOW**

At Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative, we are continually striving to improve our operational efficiency so we can provide the most reliable electric service possible for our consumer-members (that's you!).

Many of you have been members of the co-op for years, and it's likely that your account information hasn't been updated for some time. We recognize that many members now use a cellphone as their primary phone service, and we might not have that number in our system.

I want to emphasize that we will never share your contact information with any third parties. It is only used by GMEC to send important information to you. Please take a moment to confirm or update your contact information by updating the back of your bill stub. By doing so, you will be helping us improve service and efficiency so we can better serve you and all members of the co-op.

We rely on data for nearly every aspect of our operations, which is why we need your help. With your most accurate and complete contact information, we can continue to provide the high level of service that you expect and deserve. We can also let our co-op members know about important programs, events, and activities.

Up-to-date contact information can potentially speed up the power restoration process during an outage. For example, the phone number you provide is linked to your service address in our outage management system.

This means when you call to report an outage, our system recognizes your phone number and matches it with your account location. Accurate information helps our outage management system predict the location and possible cause of an outage, making it easier for our crews to correct the problem.

While we always do our best to maintain service, we occasionally plan outages to update, repair, or replace equipment. In these instances, we can provide advance notification to affected members through automated phone messages, text messages, or email.

Keeping the co-op updated with your information also helps us when there's a question about energy use or billing. In addition, discrepancies on your account can be taken care of promptly if GMEC has accurate account information.

Finally, even if you move away from GMEC's service territory at some future point, please remember to still keep your contact information updated with the co-op. When we retire capital credits, we use your most recent information to return your investment in your electrical cooperative to you.



Brian Hill
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

get alerts



ASK YOUR ENERGY ADVISOR



Ray Crock

Energy efficient landscaping tips

The decisions you make about your home's landscaping can help you stay cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. Summer is just around the corner, and strategic planting can help cool your home.

Direct sunlight hitting windows is a major contributor to overheating your home during summer months. By planting trees that block sunlight, you can improve comfort and reduce your air conditioning energy use. If the trees eventually grow tall enough to shield your roof, that's even better.

The most important windows to shade are the ones facing west, followed by windows that face east. Morning and evening sunlight hits the home more directly than midday sunlight. Also, an eave on the south side of your home can help shade your windows during midday sun.



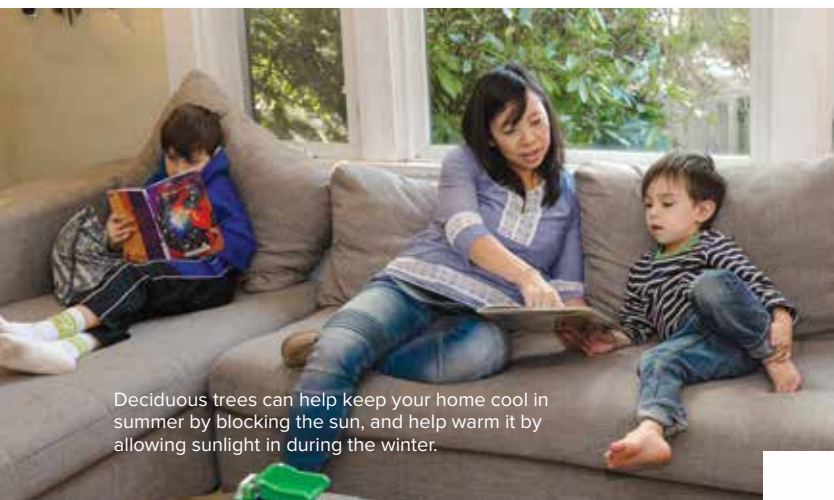
Deciduous trees on the south and west sides of your home can deflect hot summer sun.

PHOTO BY ALAN DAVEY

Landscaping can also impact your home's energy use and comfort in the winter. A solid wind break can cut harsh winter winds — for example, a solid row of trees (preferably evergreen) on the windward side of the home, with shrubs underneath the trees to keep the wind from sneaking through.

Planting a row of shrubs a foot from your home can provide more efficiency. By stopping air movement, shrubs can form a dead air space around the home that acts as “bonus” insulation.

As with any landscaping projects that require digging, remember to dial 8-1-1 to ensure all underground utility lines are properly marked and flagged before you start the work. Happy planting!



Deciduous trees can help keep your home cool in summer by blocking the sun, and help warm it by allowing sunlight in during the winter.

PHOTO BY MARCELA GARA, ENERGY EFFICIENCY DATABASE

Planting deciduous trees that lose their leaves in fall will shield your windows in summer and allow sunlight in during winter to help warm your home. A simple approach that can deliver some shade the first year is to plant a “living wall” of vines grown on a trellis next to your home.

One cooling strategy is to make sure your air conditioning compressor has some plants near it. Just make sure the plants aren't too close. The compressor should have a 5-foot space above it and a 2- to 3-foot gap all the way around, so that it gets enough air movement to do its job.

A row of low landscaping along the house can create a dead air space that provides an extra layer of insulation.





PLANT FOR EFFICIENCY

Welcome Tyler Marling

Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative welcomes Tyler Marling to the cooperative family. Tyler joined the GMEC team as an IT specialist in January. He is a graduate of John Glenn High School and DeVry University. His previous work experience includes network administration and information technology work with a local health care system. Tyler lives east of Zanesville with his wife, Hannah, and their three-year old daughter, Baylee.





GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE **CURRENTLY SPEAKING**



83rd annual meeting

Saturday, April 4, 2020

Larry W. Miller Intermediate School, New Concord

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.

Business meeting called to order promptly at noon.

Food – Entertainment – Displays

Something for everyone!

**Be sure to check the local pages in the April issue of
Ohio Cooperative Living for all the details.**

Your official notice will be included with your bill in March.





We want to **HEAR** from you

Your thoughts and opinions about Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative help us to serve you better.

In March, April, May, and June, Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative will be working with NRECA Market Research Services to complete member satisfaction surveys.

The surveys will be both by phone and email, but not everyone will be contacted. If you are contacted, we would greatly appreciate a few minutes of your time to share your opinions of the cooperative.

We strive to provide all members with safe, affordable, reliable, and clean electric service. By participating in the survey, you will help us make decisions that benefit you, your family, and your neighbors.

Thank you!

All information is confidential.



GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CURRENTLY SPEAKING

CO-OP NEWS

Geothermal heating and cooling system — \$300 rebate

We have a \$300 rebate to help pay for the most efficient underground heating, cooling, and hot water system available today. To be eligible, the geothermal unit must be ENERGY STAR-rated and have a radio-controlled switch installed on the unit and on the electric water heater of at least 40-gallon capacity. Over 280 of our members are using geothermal.

Dual Fuel — \$300 rebate

If you install a new add-on electric heat pump with a fossil-fuel backup and have an electric water heater of at least 40-gallon capacity, you are eligible for a \$300 rebate. Radio-controlled switches must be installed on both the heat pump and water heater. Please call your cooperative for details. Over 890 members are using Dual Fuel.



Cool Returns — \$100 rebate

Are you having central air conditioning installed or a new electric heat pump with electric resistance heat backup? Allow your cooperative to install a radio-controlled switch and receive a \$100 rebate check. Over 170 members are using Cool Returns.

ENERGY STAR refrigerator/freezer rebate

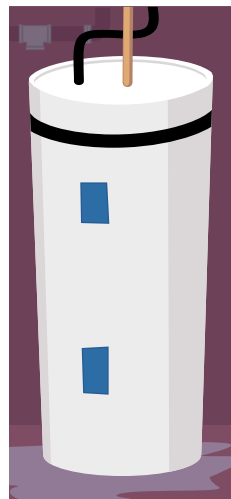
Did you buy a new ENERGY STAR refrigerator or freezer? We may have a \$100 rebate for you. Call member services for details.

Water heater with a hole

The 4-inch hole in the side of our tank is great for cleaning out sediment. This rebated tank is available for free delivery. We also have \$50 or \$100 checks to send you if you purchase a tank somewhere else. Give us a call for details.

Water heater installation available

If you purchase your water heater from GMEC, our member services technician, Tim Fisher, may be able to install your water heater for an additional charge. Give us a call for details.

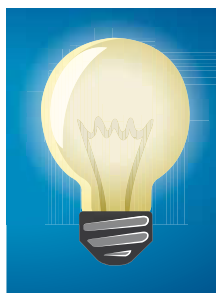


Radio-controlled switch

What a deal! If you don't already have a radio-controlled switch (RCS) for your electric water heater of at least 40-gallon capacity, please call, and Tim Fisher will install one at no charge. Over 5,600 GMEC members have an RCS on their water heaters. The switch entitles you to a discount and free maintenance (except cleaning), including parts and labor, on your electric water heater. Some exclusions apply; call us for details.

GenerLink

We want you to use your portable generator safely. Call the member services department at GMEC and ask about GenerLink. GenerLink eliminates the use of extension cords and other connections that can be dangerous to members and linemen. Over 200 members currently have a GenerLink installed at their homes.



Meter reading

You can enter your meter readings online at our website, www.gmenergy.com. You can also mail your readings or call us 24 hours a day with meter readings.

Co-op Connections card

The Co-op Connections card is free to all GMEC members, and one card can be used by the entire family. The card can be used to receive discounts nationwide on lodging, entertainment, dining, and more. Visit www.gmenergy.com and click on the link to explore the possible discounts available to you.



THE VALUE OF THE ELECTRIC GRID

The discovery of electricity is regarded as one of the greatest achievements of all time. Electricity is the backbone of our current modern-day society, and people around the world depend on it every single day.

We may see electricity as something that is always present, but the current infrastructure of today's electric grid took a lot of coordination, investment, and effort. Although the electric grid itself is complex, the process of delivering power to consumers isn't difficult to understand. Here's how electricity is sent from the electric grid to your home or business.

The first step is to generate the electricity itself, which can be done using several different types of energy. There are nonrenewable energy sources, like coal or natural gas, and there are also renewable energy sources, like solar power, wind power, or hydropower. The generation infrastructure depends on the type of energy being used, such as a power plant for natural gas, a dam for hydropower, or a large array of solar panels.

The next step is to carry the generated energy through transmission lines. High-voltage transmission lines are the first phase in delivering electricity, and they help to move large amounts of energy from the generation source to more populated areas. Through transformers located at a distribution substation, the electricity is then carried from transmission lines to distribution power lines. Distribution lines carry electricity to businesses, neighborhoods, and individual homes, where it is ready to be used by consumers.

We often take for granted the availability of electricity around us, but without electricity, we would lose a great deal of value in our lives. Because of the electric grid, we can light our homes after the sun goes down, power our smartphones, keep our food refrigerated — and so much more. We tend to only notice electricity when it is missing and can no longer complete our daily tasks. But when we're more aware of how we receive our electricity, we can all appreciate the electric grid much more.

High-voltage transmission lines carry large amounts of electricity from the generation source over long distances to electric substations.



GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CURRENTLY SPEAKING

**Daylight saving time
begins Sunday, March 8.
Don't forget to set your
clocks one hour ahead!**



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Placing hot food in
the refrigerator
makes the appliance
work harder than
necessary, using more
energy. Allow food to
cool down before you
place it in the fridge.



Is your name and account number here?

If it is, call the cooperative's office
and receive a **FREE** home change-
out to LED lightbulbs (limit six bulbs).
Thanks for reading the local pages of
Ohio Cooperative Living magazine.

#53-0155-01-01.....Pauline P Ault
#43-0701-19-00.....John D White
#32-0118-40-01.....James F Stotts
#26-0302-21-00.....Gregg C Taylor

#10-0165-23-00.....Mark A Brewer
#12-0624-03-11.....Randy Roy



GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

CONTACT

800-521-9879 | www.gmenergy.com

OFFICE

17 S. Liberty St.
New Concord, OH 43762

OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider
and employer.

ELECTRIC RATES

Farm and Home Service rate schedule R-1*
Service Availability Charge — \$22/mo.
First 500 kWh/month — 12.369¢/kWh
Over 500 kWh/month — 11.045¢/kWh

Seasonal Residential Service
rate schedule S-1*

Service Availability Charge — \$360/yr.
First 800 kWh/yr. — 19.969¢/kWh
800 to 6,000 kWh/yr. — 10.845¢/kWh
Over 6,000 kWh/yr. — 11.045¢/kWh
(Minimum annual charge — \$360/yr.
for service between March 1, 2020,
and Feb. 28, 2021)

Commercial Service rate schedule C-1*

Service Availability Charge — \$24/mo.
First 1,500 kWh/mo. — 12.769¢/kWh
Over 1,500 kWh/mo. — 11.045¢/kWh

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

First 2,000 kWh/mo. — 0.465¢/kWh
Next 13,000 kWh/mo. — 0.419¢/kWh
Over 15,000 kWh/mo. — 0.363¢/kWh

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Joseph P. Boeckman
Counsel

