



GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CURRENTLY SPEAKING



MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Solar power comes to Southeast Ohio

Over the years, we have communicated with our members about our growing portfolio of renewable energy sources through Buckeye Power, Inc. (BPI), our generation and transmission cooperative and wholesale power supplier. Through a community solar program called OurSolar, members of Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative (GMEC) can now “plug in to the sun” without the expense of installing and maintaining their own rooftop solar panels.

While more than 66 percent of BPI’s electric generation capacity comes from coal and 30 percent from natural gas, energy is also obtained from clean sources including hydropower, wind, and biomass. BPI has done this voluntarily to add diversity to their energy portfolio, which provides our members with an opportunity to invest in renewable energy. Just this past year, BPI has expanded this renewable portfolio to include community solar power.

BPI is in the process of installing 2.1 MW of photovoltaic generation at electric co-op locations across the state so members can see this technology firsthand. The installation of a 228-solar panel array with a total capacity of 60 kW took place this past November at GMEC’s pole yard south of New Concord. Each 335-watt panel is estimated to generate about 410 kWh over a year. The co-op is leasing the property (about an acre) to BPI, but beyond that, BPI is responsible for all of the costs — including the future maintenance of the panels.

How can you participate?

That’s easy. GMEC members can sign up to obtain a portion of their monthly usage from the OurSolar program by contacting the co-op and asking to “sign

me up for solar.” We will send you information about OurSolar, including a contract for you to sign and return.

Members can request the electric output from 1 to 10 panels at an additional charge of only around 2.4 cents per kilowatt-hour.

That’s about 82 cents per month for each panel, but this will vary monthly based on the output of the panels. Your electric bill will show the additional charge and how much energy the panels generated each month. The solar rate should remain fixed for years, so as wholesale power costs rise, the additional charge for OurSolar power should actually decrease over time.

The number of panels is limited, so sign up now while panels are available!

An added benefit of the OurSolar program is that we will gain firsthand knowledge and experience with solar power. This will give us an honest, unbiased analysis of the costs and benefits of solar power. While BPI and GMEC remain committed to traditional sources of power, such as coal and natural gas, we understand the need to seek innovative ways to ensure a balanced approach to electricity production. OurSolar is just one more step in that direction.



Jerry Kackley
General Manager/CEO

*Have a wonderful day!
God Bless! Jerry*



GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CURRENTLY SPEAKING



ASK YOUR ENERGY ADVISOR

High bill, empty home?

Give your home's energy use a vacation while you're away



GOING ON VACATION?

Try turning your fridge's temperature to 38 and your freezer to minus 5 degrees while you're away from home. Don't forget about extra freezers in garages or basements.

Going on vacation? Even if you plan to be away just a few days, you can save energy in your home when you travel. Here are some tips for returning home to a low energy bill.

Water heater: Turn down the temperature, so it doesn't keep the water warm while you are away. Or, talk to Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative about turning off the water heater if you'll be away for an extended period of time.

Thermostat: During hot weather, turn up the thermostat on your air-conditioning system, or consider shutting it off completely. For every degree a thermostat is raised during the summer, you can save 2 to 3 percent on your electric bill. Just be sure you don't leave pets in a home that might get too hot.

If you're away during the winter, lower the temperature on your furnace. The house can be as cool as 50 degrees without the risk of your pipes freezing.

Refrigerator: A refrigerator is the electronic equivalent of a V-8 engine, sucking electricity like a high-performance car. Extended vacations give you a good excuse to clean out your fridge and unplug it. But if your home will only be vacant for a few days, it's not worth it to unplug the device.

Depending on food stored in your fridge, you may be able to turn the thermostat as high as 38 degrees without risking spoilage. Storing water-filled bottles in your refrigerator can prevent temperature fluctuations, which will save energy. Food in the freezer will stay frozen if the temperature remains at minus 5 degrees.

Lights: Turn them all off. You may want to install timers on a few for security.

Electronics: Unless you're recording something while away, unplug all of your electronic devices — computer, monitor, printer, TV and cable boxes, DVD player, microwave, coffee pot, and digital clocks. Any electronics with digital displays, instant-on features, or remote controls will consume energy, even if they're not in use.

For other tips on how to save energy and money, visit www.TogetherWeSave.com.



Ray Crock, Energy Advisor



Call today to tour Cardinal power plant

When: Wednesday, Sept. 13

Where: Brilliant, Ohio

What: Tour of Cardinal power plant

*Bus ride, tour, and lunch are provided

If you are interested in touring a power plant that generates your electricity, please call GMEC today at 1-800-521-9879.

Please, be our guests — but don't delay!



NOTES AND REBATES

Geothermal heating/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 your electric water heater of at least 40-gallon capacity. Over 280 members use 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 (40-gallon minimum), you're eligible for a \$300 rebate. Radio-controlled switches must be installed on both the heat pump and the water heater. Over 880 members use 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 us to install a radio-controlled switch to receive a \$100 rebate check. Over 150 members participate in Cool Returns.

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. If bought elsewhere, we offer \$50 to \$100 rebates.

Water heater installation available

If you purchase your water heater from GMEC, our member services technician, Tim Fisher, will install your water heater for an additional charge. If you don't already have a radio-controlled switch (RCS) for your electric water heater (40-gallon minimum), call for a free installation. Over 5,300 GMEC members have an RCS on their water heaters.

GenerLink™

We want you to use your portable generator safely. Call and ask them about GenerLink, which eliminates the use of extension cords and other connections that can be dangerous to members and linemen.

Meter reading

You can enter your meter readings online at our website, www.gmenergy.com. As always, 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. Receive discounts nationwide on lodging, entertainment, dining, and more. Visit www.gmenergy.com to learn more.

8th Annual

Farm Science Review Bus Trip **Wednesday, Sept. 20**

Yes, I/we would like to join our co-op and ride in a Muskingum Coach tour bus to the Farm Science Review in London.

Seats will remain at \$25 each this year.

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____.

Please make check payable to GMEC.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE TRAFFIC — LEAVE THE DRIVING TO US!

Your ticket covers the bus trip to and from the review and your admission into the grounds.

Bus departs Cambridge at 6 a.m. and
Zanesville at 6:30 a.m.

Mail or return to:

Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative, Inc.
17 S. Liberty St.,
New Concord, Ohio 43762

I will board the bus at

☐ **CAMBRIDGE** ☐ **ZANESVILLE**

For more information, call member services at 1-800-521-9879.



GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CURRENTLY SPEAKING



YOUTH PROGRAMS

GMEC sends students to D.C. for Youth Tour

Riley Hartley and David Booth were selected to represent Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative this year at the Washington, D.C., Youth Tour. They joined 35 other students from around Ohio for the seven-day, all-expenses-paid trip on June 9-15.

The tour included a stop in Gettysburg, visits to the Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials, an Arlington Cemetery walk, and a Potomac River night cruise.

The tour is offered in conjunction with Ohio's Electric Cooperatives to allow students a chance to learn about the principles of American democracy and gain a better understanding of rural electric cooperatives.

Riley, a junior at Maysville High School, is the daughter of Karen Fitzgerald of Zanesville. David, a senior at John Glenn High School, is the son of Richard Booth and Joyce Booth of Cambridge.



David Booth and Riley Hartley



Is your name/account number listed here?

If so, call GMEC's office and receive a free home change-out to compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs (limit of six bulbs). Thanks for reading the GMEC local pages of *Ohio Cooperative Living*.

#18-0516-19-02

Dave E. Scott

#48-0326-31-00

James T. West

#13-0254-57-04

Kayla M. Jones

#43-0045-12-02

Marion R. Miller

#72-0221-20-00

Casey Cain

#17-0123-13-03

Tim A. Barkley

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.
Saturday 8 a.m. - 4 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 — 12.169¢/kWh
Over 500 kWh/month — 10.845¢/kWh

Seasonal Residential Service
rate schedule S-1*

Service Availability Charge — \$360/yr.

First 800 kWh/yr. — 19.769¢/kWh

800 to 6,000 kWh/yr. — \$10.645¢/kWh

Over 6,000 kWh/yr. — 10.845¢/kWh

(Minimum annual charge — \$360/yr. for
service between March 1, 2017, and Feb.
28, 2018)

Commercial Service rate schedule C-1*

Service Availability Charge — \$24/mo.

First 1,500 kWh/mo. — 12.569¢/kWh

Over 1,500 kWh/mo. — 10.845¢/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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Counsel

John Enos
Duane Parks

Jim Rex
Shirley Stutz
Directors

Jerry Kackley
General Manager/CEO

