



## MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

August is upon us, and the day to start back to school is just around the corner. Before I rush away summer, I want to take the time to enjoy the season many of us here in southeast Ohio are currently in — “fair season.” It’s an important time of year for many of our young 4-H members as well as our older generation, many of whom have memories of their days in 4-H. I hope as we participate with our young people and their projects, we don’t forget whose projects these are! What a great way for families to work together to have life lessons taught by the examples that we as adult mentors illustrate. I hope we look back with pride in years to come and see the fruits of what we have sown through the 4-H experience.

This is a time that our county fairs are experiencing large power usage. Unlike many years ago, the county fair now has a demand meter that is normally read on the hottest day of the year, or so it seems. What that

reflects is the amount of capacity that is needed to run all the fans, refrigerators, air conditioners, and many other electrical items needing power on that very hot day. Years ago, power cost was not figured as much on demand as it is today. Now the county fair not only has a high bill that week of fair, but actually pays for that same demand all year long. So, when your county fair says they need more money to operate than 20 years ago, it’s probably true. I think most of us realize that things are changing — some changes may be good, some may not, but certainly some things will be different. Have a great fair season, kids and adults. I look forward to seeing you all at the fair!



Brian Hill  
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO





Ray Crock

## Energy audits

Savings you can count on

**B**etter energy efficiency at home starts with savings, not sales. An energy audit conducted by a trained energy advisor can help you get there.

“We are proud to be the experts in the electric energy arena,” says Ray Crock, energy advisor for Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative. “We have the tools, knowledge, and commitment to assist members in our community. Saving energy can also help shave peak loads.”

Members become frantic when they see a major increase in their power bill and want almost immediate answers as to why. Sometimes a call to the co-op office (where member service reps have meter data reports and years of experience and knowledge) is the only step needed to identify the problem. Other times, more extensive research is required.

During on-site audits, an energy advisor uses all five senses to find abnormalities, such as hot water line leaks,

running well pumps, damaged power cords, construction issues, and more. He also checks household systems many homeowners seldom see or consider unless they spend time with their HVAC technician.

On average, a member can reduce their energy use by about 5% if they follow the low-cost or no-cost advice given during the audit. Additional savings of up to 20% can be achieved by addressing issues with big-ticket items, such as HVAC replacement, attic insulation, or major duct repair discovered during the audit.

Improved energy efficiency not only helps Guernsey-Muskingum control peak demand and wholesale power costs, but discussions with your energy advisor also provide an opportunity to discuss services available to members, including rebates, weatherization programs, and payment assistance.

To learn more about energy audits available to you, contact us at 800-521-9879.



## Energy audits point the way to savings

Conducting an energy audit of your home is a great way to identify opportunities for energy savings. Below are five areas an auditor will typically cover.

- **Leaks and losses:** Damaged, missing, or improperly installed insulation can increase energy use year-round. Knowing where and how to check can identify problems.
- **Comfort costs:** A visual inspection of your thermostat, water heater, heating and air conditioning equipment, and ductwork can identify performance problems.
- **Assessing appliances:** The age, condition, location, and use patterns for washers, dryers, refrigerators, and other major appliances can impact their efficiency levels.
- **Learning lighting:** A quick discussion about lighting options with an energy auditor can take the guesswork out of choosing the best bulbs and fixtures.
- **Activity adjustments:** Knowing how and when you use energy can help you save money. Shifting the time of day you use energy to do things (like laundry and cooking) to cooler, less humid hours can ease the load on HVAC systems.



## Cardinal Plant tour

If you are interested in touring a power plant that generates electricity, please call Guernsey-Muskingum's member services department today at 800-521-9879.

You, a cooperative member, are one of the owners of the Cardinal Power Plant in Brilliant, Ohio, and this is a chance to see it in operation.

A bus ride, tour, and lunch will be provided for members on Wednesday, Oct. 2.

Seats will be reserved for cooperative members who have not taken the tour in the past. Please call, as seats are limited, and will be filled on a first-call/first-served basis.

Please be aware that in the event that there is a "high" or orange security warning issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the tour may be canceled. If you have any questions, please call your cooperative.

*Please, be our guests!  
But don't delay!*

## 10th ANNUAL FARM SCIENCE REVIEW BUS TRIP

Wednesday, Sept. 18

Yes, I/we would like to join our co-op and ride in a Muskingum Coach Tour Bus to the Farm Science Review at 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 ticket to the Farm Science Review.

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

**I WILL BOARD THE BUS AT \_\_\_\_\_ CAMBRIDGE \_\_\_\_\_ ZANESVILLE**

Mail or return to:

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

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



## Going the Extra Mile

Electric cooperatives maintain more miles of power lines per consumer than other types of electric utilities. Even though they serve fewer consumers and acquire less revenue, electric co-ops always go the extra mile to power the communities they serve.



### Electric Co-ops



Consumers served per mile: **8**  
Revenue: **\$19,000**

### Other Electric Utilities



Consumers served per mile: **32**  
Revenue: **\$79,000**

Sources: EIA, 2017 data. Includes revenue and consumer averages per mile of line.

## KARAOKE CONTEST "COUNTRY STYLE"

- WHEN:** Sunday, Aug. 11, 2019, at 7 p.m.  
Registration starts at 5:30 p.m.
- WHERE:** Muskingum County Fairgrounds Entertainment Tent
- WHO:** First 30 to register
- WHAT:** \$50 prepaid VISA to the winner of each age group  
Under 21  
21 to 49  
50 to 70  
Over 70
- RULES:** Fairgrounds admission not included.  
Singing order will be randomly selected at registration.  
Singers can bring their own CDs or use Sandy's.  
Music will end after four minutes.  
Singers must be present when it's their time.  
No bumping to a later spot.



## 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

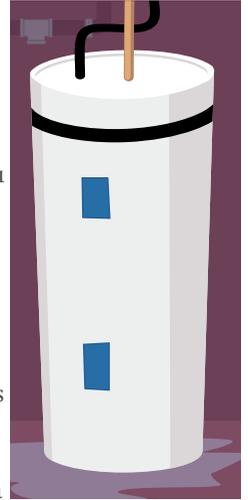
Did you buy a new ENERGY STAR refrigerator or freezer? We may have a \$100 rebate for you. Call member services for details.

### 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](http://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](http://www.gmenergy.com) and click on the link to explore the possible discounts available to you.



## Cooperative relocates osprey nest

Animals and power lines don't mix. When one comes in contact with the other, the result can be a power outage and injury or death of the animal. In June, Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative took steps to try to avoid this situation by relocating an osprey nest.

Osprey are large birds of prey, reaching 2 feet in height with a wingspan of nearly 6 feet. Their diet consists almost entirely of fish, and they dive up to 100 feet to the water to snatch fish, holding them in flight with the gripping pads on their feet and curved claws. In the 1950s and 60s, their population drastically declined, in part because of the toxic effects of DDT, an insecticide resulting in thin-shelled, easily broken, or infertile eggs. Since DDT was banned in 1972, osprey have made significant population recoveries.

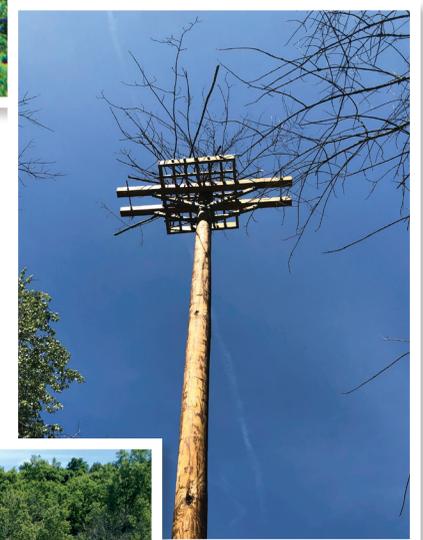
One of the most noticeable things about osprey are their impressive nests. Osprey nests are built with large sticks lined with smaller materials. The birds may use the same nest for years, adding material each year, resulting in huge nests that are 3 to 6 feet in diameter. Osprey like to build their nests high in trees, close to water, where they can watch for fish.

Unfortunately, osprey sometimes confuse electric poles for trees.

An osprey nest built atop an electric pole poses a risk for the birds and their young and also for cooperative members who depend on reliable power. When such nests are found, Guernsey-Muskingum attempts to protect both the birds and electric reliability. Some poles that are known to have a history of appearing attractive to osprey may get deterrent attachments, in hopes that the birds choose a neighboring tree instead.

Sometimes, though, determined osprey will build on nearly any structure. These nests are prime candidates for a relocation.

Relocating a nest with eggs or young birds is never an option. However, if the location is identified early or after breeding season, a pole can be set nearby with a nesting box that is almost move-in ready for osprey. Such was the case in Richland township, near Seneca Lake, where we successfully relocated an osprey nest. Previous successful relocations include areas of Salt Fork State Park and at The Wilds.



# We want to hear from you!



## Help us plan for future energy needs.

This August through October, the cooperative will be working with Clearspring Energy to survey our members about the appliances they own. The purpose of the survey is to help us understand how members use electricity so we can plan for future energy needs. The surveys will be by email or postal mail, but not everyone will be contacted. If you are contacted, we would greatly appreciate a few minutes of your time to share your feedback with the cooperative.

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

Thank you!

**OHIO'S ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVES**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

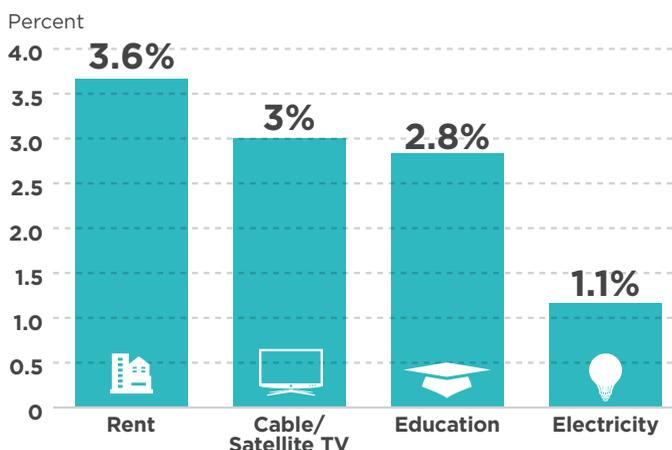


# GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CURRENTLY SPEAKING

## ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value!

### Average Annual Price Increase 2013-2018



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Consumer Price Index

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Routinely replace or clean your air conditioner's filter. Replacing a dirty, clogged filter can reduce your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5% to 15%.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



## 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.

#53-0105-22-07 .....Ross M Nelson

#14-0079-11-01.....David L Pettit

#27-0520-03-00 ....Nathan J Harlan

#600060-42-12 .....Gordon Douitt

#41-0304-25-00 .....Charles M Chambers

#24-0454-85-03 ....Leslie L Lyons



### GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

#### CONTACT

800-521-9879 | [www.gmenergy.com](http://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 — 12.169¢/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, 2019, and Feb. 28, 2020)

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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