



MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

# Electricity brings everyday **VALUE**

Even though I work in the energy industry, I still don't think much about the electricity I use. Like most people, I expect the lights to turn on when I flip the switch and the coffemaker to work each morning. Because electricity is so abundant, we don't think about it. Since many of us have been spending more time at home over the past few months, we have likely been using more energy. And yet, we still expect an endless supply of power with uninterrupted service 24/7. The only time we really think about electricity is when the power goes out or perhaps when the monthly bill arrives.

Given how electricity powers our modern lifestyle every day, it's a great value, especially when compared to other common services and expenses. For example, think back to the cost of a gallon of gasoline 20 years ago. Consider the cost of groceries or a cup of your favorite specialty coffee from a few years back. In comparison, the cost of electricity has remained largely flat, unlike most other consumer goods.

Like many of you, I have a cellphone to stay connected, and I subscribe to cable channels so I can enjoy more viewing options. Many of us consider these to be necessities for modern-day life. We can see what we're getting for our money, and we pay the price for those services. In contrast, when we use electricity, we don't necessarily "see" all that we're getting for our money.

But considering what electricity does for us, it's a tremendous value for our quality of life as well as our budgets. Consider that the average rent increase from 2014 to 2019 was nearly 4%, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index (CPI). The

cost of medical care increased 3% during this time, and education was not too far behind at 2.6%. Where did electricity rank? According to the CPI, electricity increased by less than half a percentage point — just 0.4%.

The bottom line: Electricity brings everyday value.

Considering that electricity is something that we all use around the clock, I'm very proud of our record of keeping outages to a minimum and as short a duration as possible. At the same time, we are striving to increase our service reliability, reduce those brief interruptions, and reduce costs. We are continually working to improve our operations to ensure a smarter grid.

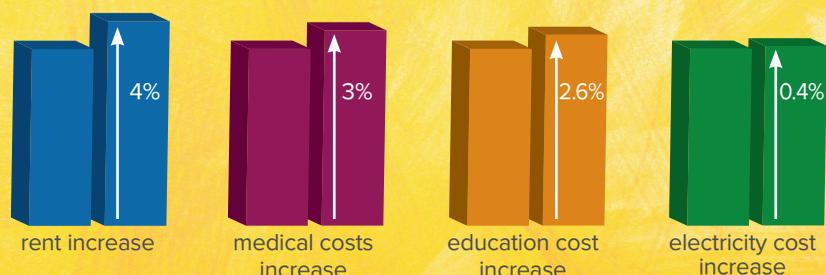
Guernsey-Muskingum Electric provides the reliable service you expect and deserve as valued members of the co-op. And as your trusted energy advisor, we want to help you save energy and money.

We recognize that the past few months have been challenging for many of our members, and we're here to help. If you have questions about your account or are looking for ways to save energy at home, please give us a call. Guernsey-Muskingum Electric is *your* electric co-op, and our sole purpose is to serve you and the needs of our community. That's everyday value.



Brian Hill  
GENERAL  
MANAGER/CEO

2014–2019

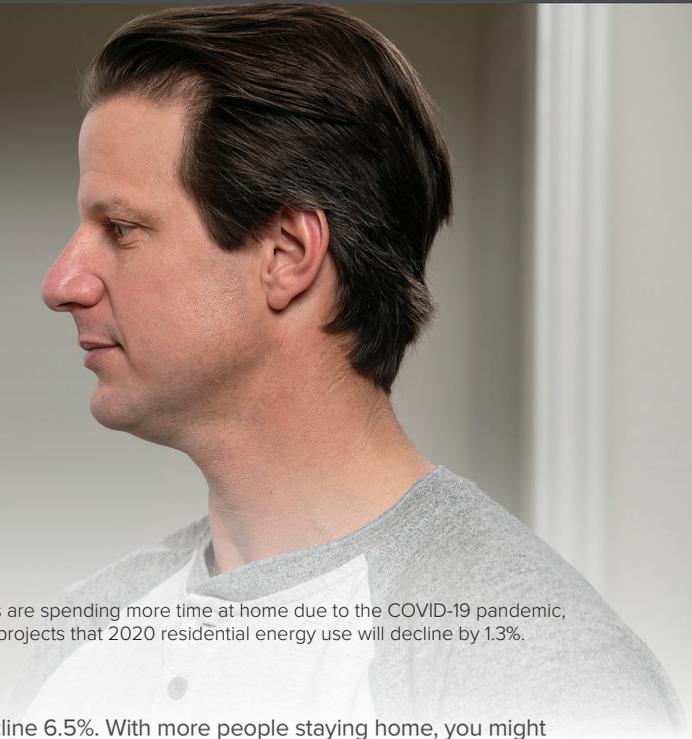




# Managing home energy use through a summer of staying at home



Even though many of us are spending more time at home due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Energy Information Administration projects that 2020 residential energy use will decline by 1.3%.



Ray Crock

If you want to make the best use of your efforts to save money on your energy bill, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) can show you where to start.

Nearly half of the electricity Americans use in their homes goes to heating and cooling air and water. Nearly a third of our electric use, 31%, goes to running our heating and air conditioning systems, and another 12% powers our water heaters.

In second place for residential electricity use is a grab bag of appliances and lighting. One-fifth of the electricity we use in our homes goes to refrigeration (6%), lighting (5%), clothes drying (4%), and TV and video games (4%).

Other appliances and devices consume even smaller shares of our total energy use. Computers, freezers, washing machines, dishwashers, and cooking appliances make up 8% of residential electricity use. Other home energy users include a range of devices like small appliances, exterior lights, and spa heaters.

## How COVID-19 is impacting energy use

Even with the recent disruptions to daily life during the COVID-19 pandemic, the advice to focus on heating and cooling to save energy holds up. EIA has started revising its energy use predictions for 2020, and because of business closures and social distancing, they project that electricity sales to commercial and industrial customers will

decline 6.5%. With more people staying home, you might expect residential sales to increase, and they will, but the weather is expected to be mild enough that EIA projects a 1.3% decline in residential electric sales this year.

## Small adjustments for significant savings

During summer months, setting your thermostat a few degrees higher than normal can make a significant difference in energy use. The Department of Energy recommends setting your thermostat to 78 F or higher when possible. Consumers can achieve additional energy savings by investing in a smart or programmable thermostat.

In addition to monitoring your thermostat, keep an eye on another significant energy user — your water heater.

According to the Department of Energy, lowering your water heater temperature to 120 F is an easy way to save energy, and for every 10 degrees reduced, consumers can save 3% to 5% on water heating costs. Replacing an older, less efficient water heater with a newer, energy efficient model could pay for itself in the long run.

For persistently high energy bills, contact your electric co-op for a more thorough evaluation of your home and how you use energy. Consumers can also find a wide range of additional ways to save energy at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

Small changes to energy-use habits, like turning off lights when you leave a room or unplugging devices when not in use, can help you save. But to make the biggest difference in energy use — even during a global pandemic — pay attention to how you heat and cool your home. That's where the biggest potential for saving energy lies.

## 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

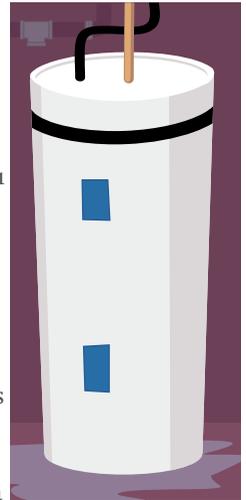
Did you buy a new ENERGY STAR refrigerator or freezer? We may have a \$100 rebate for you. Call member services for details.

### 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.



# GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CURRENTLY SPEAKING

## Beat the peak!

Did you know that the cost of electricity goes up during periods of peak demand?



Normally, electricity costs only pennies per kilowatt-hour.



During peak load times, it can cost as high as a dollar per kilowatt-hour!



### 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.

#18-0990-40-00.....Kelvin Kreager  
#13-0311-45-03.....Shane A Farolino  
#17-0208-06-03 .....Robert Reed  
#51-0661-10-04 .....Beverly A Moore

#48-0037-33-00 ....Kenneth E Crawford  
#45-0586-10-00.....David Dobbins



#### 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 — 12.369¢/kWh  
Over 500 kWh/month — 11.045¢/kWh

Net Metering Residential R-1 NM\*  
Service Availability Charge — \$40/mo.  
First 2,000 kWh/mo. — 10.845¢/kWh  
Over 2,000 kWh/mo. — 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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