

Currently Speaking

**Guernsey-Muskingum
Electric Cooperative, Inc.**
17 S. Liberty St.
New Concord, Ohio 43762
740-826-7661 — 800-521-9879
www.gmenergy.com

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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, 2015, and Feb. 28, 2016.)

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

Follow your star



**Jerry Kackley,
General Manager/CEO**

FALL IS THE BEST TIME of year to sit back at night or in the early morning hours and gaze up at the sky. I am always amazed by the clarity and brightness of the stars and moon. In the evenings, the celestial show is accompanied by a symphony of sounds presented by a chorus of insects. In my mind, there is no better way to relax and unwind. I wonder whether the twinkling of the stars is a reflection of distant suns and planets or perhaps something more majestic than that. The vastness of the stars and sky remind me that I am only a small part of a huge universe.

Some folks might take a more negative look at the night sky and conclude that we are mere specks on the blueprint of life. They might feel that our existence, while not meaningless, has no significant consequence or impact. In their minds, the glass is not even half full, but has only a drop in the bottom. I would argue quite the opposite. Each of us has the ability and responsibility to impact the lives of those around us in a positive way. We were not created simply to exist. We were given life so that we could make a difference. That difference can sometimes be as simple as a smile or a hug that lifts the spirits of someone who is having a rough day. It can be seen in the unconditional love of a father and mother who provide support and guidance throughout the life of a child. It may involve sacrifice, and it must encompass a willingness to give of ourselves unselfishly.

As I study the night sky, I often wonder what star guided the Wise Men on that glorious evening so many years ago. There are stars shining brightly in all directions so I cannot be sure. Perhaps that special star was only there to guide their journey and then vanished after they reached their destination. But what I can be sure of, is that God put love, compassion and hope in each of our hearts and souls. We have been nurtured by other human beings who all had an impact on our lives. While there will always be struggles in life, the blessings we have received are much greater than any of us may realize.

As Christmas approaches, let the peace and understanding of God's love fill your hearts and your minds. Make a difference in someone's life. Look toward the heavens, and follow your star. Merry Christmas and God bless. ☺

Holiday office hours

Guernsey-Muskingum Electric's
office will be closed for the following
holidays, but please note the drive-up
window will be open on the Saturdays after:



Christmas Eve, Day: Thursday, Dec. 24 - Friday, Dec. 25
Drive-up window open Saturday, Dec. 26

New Year's Day: Friday, Jan. 1
Drive-up window open Saturday, Jan. 2

If outages occur during the holidays, call 800-521-9879 for emergency service.
GMEC's payment dropbox is always available for your convenience.

High School **Seniors**

**Are your parents members
of Guernsey-Muskingum?**

\$4,400

**You could win a college, vocational or
technical school scholarship up to**

- Available in both boys' and girls' divisions
- First-place GMEC scholarship: **\$1,000**
- First-place Ohio Electric Cooperatives statewide scholarship: **\$3,400**
- Runners-up in each competition also will receive scholarships
- Applications due **Feb. 5** to GMEC office

Get applications for these scholarships from your guidance counselor, call GMEC's Heather Baker at-740-826-7661 or 800-521-9879, or visit us online at gmenergy.com!

Applications are due February 5, 2016.

Touchstone Energy[®] Achievement Scholarship

Did you overcome unique and significant personal challenges on your way to excellence?



Win a **\$2,500** college scholarship!

- First-place **\$500** scholarship, second-place **\$300** scholarship from GMEC
- **\$2,000** scholarship from Ohio Electric Cooperatives
- Application deadline: **Feb. 5**

Try *LEDs* for holiday decorations

THE FIRST GENERATION of LED holiday lights generated less-than-appealing garish blues, greens and reds, but newer versions have quickly softened into a more eye-pleasing spectrum. Today, LEDs are the undisputed champs of holiday lighting.

You could wrap your home in LED light strings, become visible to the International Space Station and still have a manageable power bill at the end of it all. Now there is no reason to let concerns over cost of operation limit your decorating genius.

LEDs are also showing up in other decorations. They glow in clear tubes that can be wrapped around objects like columns or porch rails, and many yard figurines are built with LEDs as the main structural element.

If that isn't enough for your holiday pleasure, how about wearing some LEDs? Yes, the tacky but ever-so-popular holiday tie with tiny lights has been around for years. Combine the advances in LEDs with conductive paints and "micro controllers" like the Arduino (<https://www.arduino.cc>) or Raspberry Pi (<https://www.raspberrypi.org>), and you can create some truly memorable fashions for the holidays.

Just imagine the sensation you can cause at the office holiday party by arriving in a coat of many, many colors. You could even spell out special holiday greetings with the proper display or simply glow all night long.

Don't worry about needing clunky power supplies or treacherous extension cords to keep your fashion style illuminated. These displays use batteries—just be sure to turn yourself off before driving home. Two good sources for such decorations are www.sparkfun.com and www.adafruit.com (click the "wearables" link on both sites).

Reward yourself for being energy-savvy this year by creating a spectacular holiday display that won't cause sticker shock on the January electric bill. ☺






Ray Crock, Energy Advisor



HOLIDAY LIGHTING COMPARISON

Holiday lighting options have come a long way over the last few decades. The chart below shows three types of lighting options, including wattage and operating cost comparisons.**

TYPE OF LAMP	WATTAGE PER LAMP	WATTAGE PER 50 LAMPS	SEASONAL OPERATING COST*
C9 INCANDESCENT 	7	350	\$13.33
MINI INCANDESCENT 	.425	21.25	\$0.81
LED 	.069	3.45	\$0.13

*Using 40 days of operation, 8 hours per day, \$.119 per kWh (Department of Energy average)
** LEDs also last as much as 40 times longer than the incandescent lamps.

Source: energy.gov

Cook up holiday **ENERGY SAVINGS**

BY ANNE PRINCE

For many of us, the best holidays involve home-cooked meals and wonderful aromas of turkey, stuffing and baked goods wafting throughout the house. It means a busy kitchen and a bustling house full of family and friends. If this rings true for you, despite the increased kitchen activity, you still have an opportunity to save energy during the holidays.

According to the Department of Energy, cooking accounts for 4.5 percent of total energy use in U.S. homes. Combined with the energy use associated with refrigeration, dishwashing and water heating, as much as 15 percent of the energy in the average American home is used in the kitchen. So saving energy here can have a significant impact on your household budget.

For example, when preparing side dishes, baked goods, soups and such, consider using small appliances like a slow cooker, toaster oven, microwave or warming plate instead of your conventional oven or stovetop. These small appliances are a smart, energy-saving alternative, typically using about half the energy of a stove.

Get cooking on energy efficiency

When using your oven, don't peek. Opening the oven door can lower the temperature by as much as 25 degrees and causes your stove to work harder (consuming more energy) to return to the desired cooking temperature. If your dish needs to bake for more than an hour, it is not necessary to preheat the oven. If your oven is electric, you can likely turn the oven off for the last five to ten minutes of cooking and allow the residual heat to complete the job. Clean burners and reflectors increase efficiency and offer better heating, so don't neglect this small but important task.

- Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible so cold air doesn't escape. But leaving the door open for a longer period of time while you load groceries or remove items is more efficient than opening and closing it several times.


- If you are entertaining a large group, you may be able to give the furnace a brief holiday. When your oven is working hard and you have a house full of guests, the heat from the stove and the bodies will keep your house comfortable and allow you to turn down the thermostat.

Clean up with energy savings

Use cold water to rinse dishes before loading the dishwasher, and make sure to run only full loads. If possible, use the energy-saving cycle. Dishwashers with overnight or air power dry settings can save up to 10 percent of your dishwashing energy costs.

ANNE PRINCE writes for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

**Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month**



Remember to close the fireplace damper when you're not enjoying a fire. An open damper is like leaving a window wide open during the winter, allowing warm air to escape through the chimney.

Source: energy.gov



Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative's board of directors and employees wish all members **a merry Christmas!**

**Is your name and location/
account number here?**

If it is, call your cooperative's office and receive a **FREE** home change-out to compact fluorescent lightbulbs. (Limit 6 bulbs.)
Thanks for reading the GMEC "local pages" of *Country Living* magazine.

#44-0180-22-02	Kenneth H Dickey
#57-0260-22-01	John S Brindley
#52-0657-21-00	Juanita A Parry
#32-0255-40-00.....	Jeffrey McNeish
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