

Currently Speaking

Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

17 S. Liberty St.
New Concord, Ohio 43762
800-521-9879
www.gmenergy.com

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Jay Gray Vice Chairman
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Jerry Kackley, General Manager/CEO

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, 2016, and Feb. 28, 2017.)

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

The “R” word

SLOW DOWN! That is what I would like to say to life. It seems that the days, months, and years continue to fly by at a pace that is much too fast. Don't blink or you will certainly miss something.



Jerry Kackley,
General Manager/CEO

As I reminisce about days gone by, I realize now that I don't want to grow up. Growing up means that I must take on the “R” word: responsibility. As a young man, becoming an adult was a dream. I longed to earn money, buy my own car, eat what I wanted, stay up late, and enjoy life...now that's what I'm talking about! Bring it on mom and dad, cause I'm ready to take on the world!

But wait a minute — nobody ever mentioned **responsibility**. That certainly takes some of the fun out of growing up. Foolish boy, be careful what you wish for.

The carefree life of a child very quickly transitions into adulthood: work, marriage, a house, children, and more. We must then put the needs of others ahead of our own. In other words, we must take on new responsibilities. The “r” word almost certainly leads to the “s” word — stress. The demands of our world can often be overwhelming and can literally take the fun out of life.

My friends, we must never let that happen, for we have been given many gifts and blessings. Do not be consumed by the negative, or you will fail to see the positive. As difficult as some issues may be, there is a tremendous feeling of satisfaction when we can overcome adversity. Most athletes would tell you that their most prized victories came from beating their most formidable opponents. So welcome responsibility and stress. Face them head-on and transform them into the “a” word: accomplishment. Do not hesitate to ask for help along the way, but be willing to take steps to help yourself, and never expect that society owes you anything. And most importantly, always be willing to help others when you can.

Christmas will be here very soon, so it seems appropriate to focus on the blessings of our lives. May God bring you and your family peace and happiness this holiday season. And may your hearts and lives be filled with love and the “h” word: hope. Merry Christmas and happy New Year. ☸

*Have a wonderful day!
God Bless! Jerry*

Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative's
Board of Directors and employees
wish all our members a

Merry Christmas.

Digital devices can have a *big impact* on energy use

AH, THE DIGITAL AGE. We have gadgets galore, the ability to manage our homes in new and innovative ways, brilliant images and captivating sounds of modern entertainment options, and of course, the Internet. Clearly, digital devices reign supreme. But these cool new capabilities come with a couple of pitfalls: “vampire” loads and the issue of “technology reincarnation.”

Over the course of the Digital Age, electricity use has continued to increase. Families have multiple televisions, computers, cellphones, gaming devices, and cable or satellite boxes.

Major appliances aside, most digital devices do not use 120-volt power, which is the standard voltage of a home outlet. They actually use a lot less. So trying to plug your brand new smartphone directly into an outlet is going to lead to a fried device. This is why low-voltage devices come with a power adapter. These “wall warts,” as some term them, take the 120-volt electricity supplied by Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative and convert it to, say, 5 volts. Unfortunately, most folks leave their adapters plugged in to make recharging easier. The problem is that the seemingly innocuous wall wart uses power even when it isn’t charging a device.

This invisible energy consumption is often called a “vampire” load. Studies show that 5 to 10 percent of the average home’s energy use is from vampire loads, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. The only way to stop this is to unplug

the power adapter when it is not in use or employ smart power strips. These look like the typical power strip but with a twist -- only one socket gets power all the time. When the device or appliance connected to it turns on and starts using power, the remaining sockets receive power, too. This is perfect for home entertainment systems, computer setups, and a variety of other situations.

Technological advances have steadily increased energy efficiency and reduced purchase prices. This sounds like a good thing, but when replacing a product at the end of its life, the tendency is to go bigger and continue to use the old tech -- technology reincarnation.

For example, flat screen television prices have plummeted as technology has evolved, and so has the amount of electricity they use. Consumers wander into the big-box store and are dazzled by walls of giant, brilliant televisions. What they used to pay for the paltry 32-inch model now might net them a 50-inch giant. And who doesn’t want to see their favorite show or sports event in near-life size? But if you spring for the bigger TV, you won’t benefit from the increased energy efficiency of the newer technology. The bigger model uses as much juice as the older, smaller TV, which likely ends up in another room — “reincarnated” in another setting — still using power. This often happens to refrigerators, which end up reincarnated in garages or basements.

I’ll offer a couple words of advice to help you avoid, or at least reduce, the effects of vampire loads and technology reincarnation. Invest in smart power strips or make a point to use outlets where you can conveniently unplug power adapters when the devices plugged into it are not in use. Don’t oversize your replacement appliances and entertainment gear, unless family needs dictate the larger capacities. And recycle the replaced appliances and equipment to stem technology reincarnation. You will enjoy the Digital Age for a lot less money. ☺

ASK YOUR
ENERGY
ADVISOR



Ray Crock,
Energy Advisor



Is your name and account number here?

If it is, call your cooperative's office and receive a FREE home change-out to compact fluorescent light bulbs (limit 6 bulbs).

Thanks for reading the "local pages" of *Country Living* magazine.

#57-0240-15-00

William T Keeton

#35-0748-13-01

Sherry L Botson

#28-0076-19-03

Annette Brown

#22-0207-19-00

Roger L Wickham

#18-0629-07-01

Thomas J Sasser

#42-251-22-01

Myron Gilcher

Cooperative holiday hours

Office closed for Christmas Eve: Friday, Dec. 23

Office closed for Christmas Day: Monday, Dec. 26

Office closed for New Year's Day: Monday, Jan. 2

If outages occur during the holidays, someone will be available to take your call and dispatch a trouble crew to correct your problem. Our office drop box is always available for your convenience.

Co-op notes, rebates, and discounts

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. 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 GMEC 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 are required to be installed on both the heat pump and water heater. Please call your cooperative for details. Over 880 GMEC 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 150 members are participating in Cool Returns.

Water heater with sediment 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, will install your water heater for an additional charge. Give us a call.

Radio-controlled switch

What a deal! If you don't already have a radio-controlled switch for your electric water heater of at least 40-gallon capacity, please call and Tim Fisher will install one FREE. Over 5,300 GMEC members have a switch on their water heaters. This 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 them about GenerLink. GenerLink 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. And, as always, you can 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 also be used to receive discounts nationwide on lodging, entertainment, dining, and more. Visit www.gmenergy.com and click on the Co-op Connections Card link to explore the discounts available to you.

2017 GRADS:

You could win more than \$3,500 in our **Children of Members Scholarship** program!

FOR RULES AND APPLICATIONS:

Available in both boys' and girls' divisions with first-place winners receiving a \$1,000 GMEC scholarship

More funds available for Ohio's Electric Cooperatives' statewide winners

- Visit www.gmenergy.com
- Call GMEC's Heather Baker at 740-826-7661 or 800-521-9879
- Stop by the co-op office
- Pick them up from your guidance counselor
- Deadline to apply: Feb. 3, 2017

Graduating Seniors: Have you overcome unique and significant personal challenges on your way to academic excellence?

FOR RULES AND APPLICATIONS:

- Visit www.gmenergy.com
- Call GMEC's Heather Baker at 740-826-7661 or 800-521-9879
- Stop by the co-op office
- See your guidance counselor
- Deadline to apply: Feb. 3, 2017

First place wins \$500 and second place wins \$300 in the

**Touchstone Energy[®]
Achievement Scholarship**

Program!