

# Currently Speaking

**Guernsey-Muskingum  
Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
17 S. Liberty St.  
New Concord, Ohio 43762  
740-826-7661 — 800-521-9879  
[www.gmenergy.com](http://www.gmenergy.com)

## Board of Directors

Duane Parks .....Chairman  
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Jay Gray .....Director  
Brian Hill .....Director  
Shirley Stutz .....Director  
Daniel J. Gunsett .....Counsel  
Garry Mbiad ....General Manager/CEO

## Electric Rates

Farm and Home Service  
rate schedule R-1

Service Availability Charge  
\$15/month  
First 500 kWh/month  
@ 11.419¢/kWh  
Over 500 kWh/month  
@ 9.295¢/kWh

Seasonal Residential Service  
annual rate schedule S-1

Service Availability Charge  
\$180/year  
First 800 kWh/year  
@ 19.419¢/kWh  
Over 800 to 6,000 kWh/year  
@ 10.295¢/kWh  
Over 6,000 kWh/year  
@ 9.295¢/kWh

(Your minimum annual charge will be \$180 per year for service between March 1, 2010, and Feb. 28, 2011.)

Commercial Service  
rate schedule C-1

Service Availability Charge  
\$15/month  
First 1,500 kWh/month  
@ 11.419¢/kWh  
Over 1,500 kWh/month  
@ 9.295¢/kWh

## Rider T —

Kilowatt-hour Tax applies to all rate schedules.  
First 2,000 kWh/month .465¢/kWh  
Next 13,000 kWh/month .419¢/kWh  
Over 15,000 kWh/month .363¢/kWh

## Generation-and-transmission component unchanged

Your electric service bill is made up of various components. About half of your bill is a generation-and-transmission component (GTC). This is used to cover all the costs of generating electricity and transmitting it to substations to be used by the cooperative's members. The last time the GTC was changed was with the October 2010 bill. Since that time, it has been at the 6.65 cents per kilowatt-hour level. Looking ahead and projecting the rate for the next three months, the GTC will remain unchanged at 6.65 cents per kilowatt-hour, effective with the January bill, which you will receive on Feb. 10.

No coverage of local expenses is included in the GTC charge. The GTC will continue to be revised quarterly.

Make plans now to attend...  
**The 74th Annual Meeting of Members**  
**Saturday, April 9**  
Larry W. Miller Intermediate School  
New Concord

## Did you know?

Uninsulated, poorly insulated or leaking ductwork in unconditioned spaces can waste 10 to 30 percent or more of the energy used to heat and cool your home. Double-check your ducts to make sure they are sealed and properly insulated. Or you can ask Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative about a blower door test and infrared scan of your home.

## Are your name and location/account number here?

If they are, call your cooperative's office and receive a FREE home changeout to compact fluorescent light bulbs. (Limit 12 bulbs.) Thanks for reading the "local pages" of *Country Living* magazine.

#11-0311-29-03 .....Gary Gene Hartman  
#20-0069-45-05.....Melvin Brewer  
#33-0016-02-02.....Marc Henderson  
#43-0617-03-00 .....Donna K. Villers  
#47-0610-09-07 .....Norman F. Lucas  
#51-1011-19-01.....David W. Wycoff  
#66-0007-03-01 .....Jodie Lynn Cordell  
#95-0007-03-01 .....Ronald D. Stevenson

## WHAT IS...Operation Helping Others?

There are more than 3,000 GMEC members signed up to participate in Operation Helping Others (OHO). If you are one of those members, **THANK YOU**. If you are not familiar with OHO, here is how it works:

OHO is a voluntary program that rounds up your electric bill to the nearest dollar and uses the change as a donation to fund this project. OHO is not a program to pay Guernsey-Muskingum electric bills. Funding comes entirely from members who voluntarily participate. The small change donated by members makes a big difference in our communities. This is how it works:

Willie Wiredhand's Electric Bill.....	\$73.44
Willie Rounds Up His Bill & Pays.....	\$74.00
Left Over.....	56¢

The 56¢ from Willie Wiredhand would be used in our local communities as decided by the OHO committee. Every penny raised by your donations to OHO go toward assisting the needs in our community. The OHO committee consists of one appointed volunteer from each district. In 2010, your OHO committee granted **\$20,082** to be distributed to needy causes in our community. Below is a list of OHO recipients for the 2010 year.

OHO Grant Amount	OHO Qtr. Meeting Date	Location of Recipient	Need of Recipient
\$200	2/22/10	Oxford Township, Tuscarawas County	Medical expenses
\$1,000	2/22/10	Meigs Township, Muskingum County	Renovations for downstairs bathroom for person in wheelchair
\$350	2/22/10	Cambridge Township, Guernsey County	Improve energy efficiency
\$2,401.54	2/22/10	Madison Township, Guernsey County	Property taxes, water tap fees, IRS bill for elderly man with congestive heart failure
\$1,500	2/22/10	Rush Township, Tuscarawas County	Expenses after husband's unexpected death
\$1,000	5/24/10	Westland Township, Guernsey County	Expenses from son's lengthy hospitalization & death
\$1,000	5/24/10	Brush Creek Township, Muskingum County	Home fire
\$2,000	5/24/10	Monroe Township, Muskingum County	Expenses after daughter's accident
\$450	8/30/10	Byesville, Ohio	Expenses after accident
\$800	8/30/10	Wheeling Township, Guernsey County	Purchase lift chair
\$250	8/30/10	Philo, Muskingum County	Gifts for veterans during church services
\$850	8/30/10	New Concord, Ohio	Replace filters
\$500	8/30/10	Highland Township, Muskingum County	Provide equine therapy to children with physical, mental and emotional disabilities
\$2,000	8/30/10	Madison Township, Guernsey County	MS patient
\$250	8/30/10	Cambridge, Ohio	Strong kids campaign
\$430	12/6/10	Liberty Township, Guernsey County	Expenses after hip surgery
\$350	12/6/10	Guernsey County, Ohio	Christmas drive
\$350	12/6/10	Guernsey and Noble counties	Christmas drive
\$350	12/6/10	Morgan County, Ohio	Christmas drive
\$600	12/6/10	Brush Creek Township, Muskingum County	Expenses from losing job due to medical condition
\$250	12/6/10	Oxford Township, Guernsey County	Clean septic tank and buy glasses
\$1,000	12/6/10	New Concord, Ohio	Medical expenses and heating fuel
\$400	12/6/10	Newcomerstown, Ohio	Tires, clothing for children, school supplies
\$350	12/6/10	Zanesville, Ohio	Christmas donation
\$350	12/6/10	Noble County, Ohio	Christmas donation
\$350	12/6/10	Muskingum County, Ohio	Christmas drive
\$350	12/6/10	Tuscarawas County, Ohio	Christmas drive
\$400	12/6/10	Madison Township, Guernsey County	Groceries, clothing, insurance and taxes

## High School Sophomores and Juniors: You could win the trip of a lifetime!



### What is Youth Tour?

It's not just another trip! Youth Tour is an annual contest sponsored by the Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc., and your local electric cooperative that gives deserving high school sophomores and juniors like you the opportunity to use your knowledge and wit to compete for a FREE weeklong trip to Washington, D.C., June 10 to 16.

You'll meet up with nearly 1,500 students from across the country in June if you win. You'll get a chance to meet and talk to congressional leaders from Ohio at the U.S. Capitol, plus you'll get to see all the sights and visit a bunch of really cool places.



### What are the entry requirements?

Guernsey-Muskingum will sponsor two students on this trip. To be eligible to compete, you must be a high school sophomore or junior whose parents/guardians are members of Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative.

### How will the finalists be chosen?

For information on how you can be part of this trip, visit our website at [www.gmenergy.com](http://www.gmenergy.com) or call Heather Baker at 1-800-521-9879. Application deadline will be Friday, March 4. All qualified applicants will be interviewed on Wednesday, March 16.

## Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Achievement Scholarship

*Did you overcome adversity, obstacles or personal challenges on your way to excellence?*

**Tell us about it — you may win a scholarship!**

For further information, contact:  
[www.gmenergy.com](http://www.gmenergy.com)

**Heather Baker**  
**740-826-7661 or 800-521-9879**

**Application deadline:**  
March 4

Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives  
Four **\$1,675** Scholarships

Guernsey-Muskingum Electric  
First Place **\$500**  
Second Place **\$300**



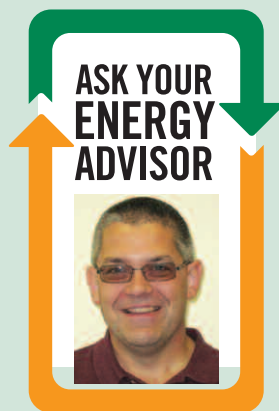
## Old refrigerators eat energy and money

Does this sound familiar? You bought a new refrigerator and moved your old fridge to a garage or basement to keep a few drinks and some surplus food items cold. Here's a tip that can help you save energy and money.

Old refrigerators, especially those bought before 1993, use more than twice as much electricity as a new ENERGY STAR model. What's more, refrigerants in these older appliances weaken over time and door seals start to leak, causing a decline in the performance.

If you have moved your old refrigerator to an un-insulated location, such as a garage, it will use even more energy during hot weather. And if the temperature falls below about 40 degrees in winter, the refrigerator's thermostat may not run its cooling and defrost cycles for the appropriate amount of time.

By pulling the plug on that old refrigerator, you can save \$146 a year. For other tips on how to save energy — and money — visit [www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov) OR Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives energy-saving website, [www.TogetherWeSave.com](http://www.TogetherWeSave.com).



*Ray Crock,  
Energy Advisor*

### Blower doors lower pressure, find leaks

When you have an electric co-op employee come to your home to perform an energy audit, you may be surprised by the big red screen he or she sets up in the open frame of your home's front door. But don't be alarmed — it's just a blower door.

Blower door tests are commonplace in energy audits because they uncover how much air leaks from your home. The "door" comes with a built-in fan and multiple gauges that measure air pressure. The fan sucks air out of your house, lowering the pressure inside. In turn, higher-pressure outdoor air will work its way through cracks and unsealed openings.

While it's important for your residence to remain well-ventilated, too much air exchange can be unhealthy, uncomfortable and expensive — in the form of higher electric bills.

"Blower door tests can be a vital part of a home energy audit," stresses Energy Advisor Ray Crock. "By identifying air leaks, we can identify ways for our members to save energy and money."

Sometimes, a blower door test is used in conjunction with an infrared scan. Infrared scanning, which is usually done in the winter, allows an auditor to find where insulation may be needed.

These special cameras produce images that, in varying shades from white to black, show where air or heat is leaking out. For example, cool air flowing around a leaky outlet would show up very dark, whereas a tightly sealed window would be closer to white. Other infrared cameras use color to show where heat is leaking from a home — red and white are the hottest areas, and blue and purple are coolest. A leaky window would glow red and white, while a well-insulated attic would be blue.

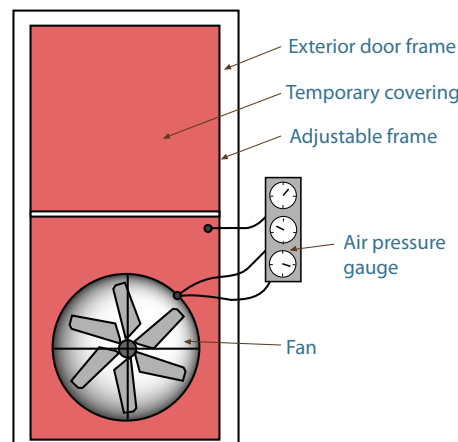
"Infrared cameras are a great tool because they pinpoint exactly where air loss is occurring," Crock remarks. "The homeowner can get those areas sealed and start seeing savings."

If you have one done, close windows and open interior doors; turn down thermostats on your heat pump or furnace and water heater; cover ashes in a wood stoves or fireplace with damp newspapers; and shut fireplace dampers and wood stove air intakes. To conduct a proper infrared scan, move furniture away from walls and take down drapes.

*Source: U.S. Department of Energy (EnergySavers.gov)*

#### Testing efficiency with a blower door

Many home energy audits involve use of a special diagnostic tool called a blower door. The device confirms the air tightness of a home by drawing out air with a massive fan mounted on an exterior door. The drop in interior pressure causes outside air to rush in through areas like inefficient window seals, for example.



*Source: U.S. Department of Energy*