

# Currently Speaking

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

## Board of Directors

Ed Bay .....Chairman  
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Garry Mbiad ....General Manager/CEO

## Electric Rates

### Farm and Home Service rate schedule R-1

Service Availability Charge  
\$16/month  
First 500 kWh/month  
@ 12.269¢/kWh  
Over 500 kWh/month  
@ 10.145¢/kWh

### Seasonal Residential Service annual rate schedule S-1

Service Availability Charge  
\$192/year  
First 800 kWh/year  
@ 20.269¢/kWh  
Over 800 to 6,000 kWh/year  
@ 11.145¢/kWh  
Over 6,000 kWh/year  
@ 10.145¢/kWh

(Your minimum annual charge will be \$192 per year for service between March 1, 2011, and Feb. 29, 2012.)

### Commercial Service rate schedule C-1

Service Availability Charge  
\$16/month  
First 1,500 kWh/month  
@ 12.269¢/kWh  
Over 1,500 kWh/month  
@ 10.145¢/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

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## When the lights came on

Your cooperative is going to be having its **75th Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 14**, at the Larry Miller Intermediate School in New Concord.

Under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) was formed to encourage rural electrification by lending low-interest money to any group or company that would undertake the challenge of delivering electricity to the scattered farmers of rural America.

In the 1930s electricity was common, as long as you lived in the city; 90 percent of city folks had lights. The countryside was still dark: only 10 percent of country folks had lights. One part of the nation lived in light, the other in darkness. Big power companies thought electrifying the countryside cost too much because the homes were too far apart and farmers would not use much electricity.

On April 4, 1938, a group of rural electric supporters met in New Concord and voted to incorporate. The name they gave the association was Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative, Inc. That was the first meeting, and there have been 73 annual meetings since. April 14 will be the 75th.

On April 14, your cooperative would like to recognize members who remember “The Day the Lights Came On.” If you lived in a home served by Guernsey-Muskingum when the home first received electricity, we would like to hear from you.

Please call the office at 800-521-9879 to have your name added to the roster of “original” REA members. On April 14, “original” REA members will receive a small gift, along with their own certificate of remembrance. No need to fear, you will not be asked to speak and tell your story, although a few may share.

Because of World War II, the rural electric effort was slowed until post-war. Many of the “original” REA members were connected in the late '40s.



## Generation-and-transmission component changes

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 2011 bill. Since that time, it has been at the 7.30 cents per kilowatt-hour level. Looking ahead and projecting the rate for the next three months, the GTC will increase to 7.50 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.

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

If so, 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.

#11-0720-09-00 .....Randy E Lyons  
#16-0623-19-00 .....John Coler  
#25-0001-02-02 .....John W McDonald  
#30-0207-18-00 .....Mysti Hobson  
#39-0190-10-01 .....Scott Biggins  
#43-0144-12-06 .....Kenneth W Ford  
#48-0412-16-02 .....Cindy Corbett  
#52-0685-02-00 .....William L Lallithan II

# Avoiding air invasions

We all know the symptoms of a house that's leaking air. Drafty halls in the winter lead to rooms that suffocate in summer. Then there's the most uncomfortable pain of all — high electric bills.

Talk to an energy efficiency expert from your local electric cooperative, and one of the first things he or she will do is ask about insulation in your house. What type do you have? Is it in the attic, walls and floors? How about the basement or crawl space?

Chances are leaky homes aren't properly insulated. But it takes more than a roll of the familiar pink fiberglass to stop air invasions.

## Sealing the envelope = Zipping your coat

"The biggest culprit to high energy bills remains an un-insulated, unsealed building envelope," remarks Bob Dickey, manager of marketing and economic development for Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, based in Paxton, Ill. "You can lower home energy bills — you just have to identify and stop air infiltration."

A "thermal building envelope" separates you from outside elements. It's like wearing a coat when it's cold: If you zip up your coat, it's nice and warm, but if it hangs open, you're left freezing. By properly sealing the building envelope and creating air barriers, and then installing insulation, you keep hot air out in summer and cold air out in winter.

Sealing your home's thermal envelope involves apply-

ing caulk and foam to cracks and gaps and correctly installing insulation. If the insulation isn't put in well, it's not doing its job. Typically, incorrectly placed insulation leaves gaps between walls and doors or windows, or where the ceiling meets the walls.

If there's a gap in insulation, heat gets through, warns Peter Criscione, a manager with E Source, which works with the Cooperative Research Network, a division of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association that monitors, evaluates and applies technologies to help electric cooperatives control costs, increase productivity and enhance service to their members.

"It comes down to finding quality installers," Criscione stresses.

## It's all about air infiltration

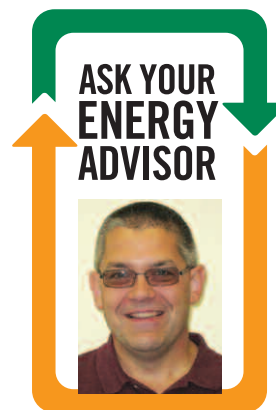
Understanding air infiltration is only half the battle. You have to find and stop the invaders.

"The first step involves putting a 'lid' on a house because heated air rises and will work its way out of the living space," Dickey relates.

If your local electric cooperative offers home energy audits, take advantage of them. Your co-op's energy advisor will determine if your home needs a blower-door test, one of the best ways of finding out how much air goes in and out of your residence every hour. If a thermal imaging camera is available, the auditor can pinpoint exactly where your home loses air. Typical culprits include the roof, around doors and windows, recessed can lights, attic hatches and pull-down stairs, and unfinished basements or crawl spaces.




Don't overlook the obvious — check where ceilings and floors meet the walls, too. Do you routinely have to clean a cobwebby corner? That's a good indication of air infiltration, because insects like fresh air. "What you don't see could be costing you a lot," Dickey warns.

Caulk, weatherstripping and expanding spray foam should take care of those problem areas listed above. You can also make a box of rigid foam board for the attic pull-down stairs.



Ray Crock,  
Energy Advisor

## Common Caulking Compounds

Caulk Type	Recommended Uses	Cleanup	Shrinkage	Adhesion	Comments
 Silicone	Seals most dissimilar building materials such as wood, stone, vinyl, metal flashing and brick	Immediately with dry cloth and mineral spirits or naphtha	Little or none	Good to excellent	Permits joints to stretch or compress. Will stick to painted surfaces, but paint will not adhere to most cured silicones.
 Polyurethane, expandable spray foam	Expands when curing. Good for larger cracks. Use in non-friction areas, because foam becomes dry and powdery over time.	Immediately with solvent such as lacquer thinner	None; expands quite a bit	Good to excellent	Quickly expands to fit larger, irregularly shaped gaps. Flexible. Can be applied at variable temperatures. Must be painted for exterior use to protect from ultraviolet radiation.
 Water-based spray foam	Around window and door frames in new construction or remodeling projects; smaller cracks	Water	None; expands only 25%	Good to excellent	Takes 24 hours to cure to a soft consistency. Will not overexpand to bend window frames. Must be exposed to air to dry. Not useful for larger gaps, as curing becomes difficult.
 Butyl rubber	Seals most dissimilar materials such as glass, metal, plastic, wood and concrete. Seals around windows and flashing; bonds loose shingles	Mineral spirits or naphtha	5%-30%	Good	Lasts 10 or more years. Resilient, but not brittle. Can be painted after one week. Variable shrinkage may require two applications. Does not adhere well to painted surfaces.
 Oil or resin-based	Seals exterior seams and joints on almost all building materials	Mineral spirits or naphtha	10%-20%	Good	Low cost. Rope and tube forms available. Oils dry out and cause material to harden and fall out. Low durability; lasts 1-4 years. Poor adhesion to porous surfaces such as masonry. Should be painted. Limited temperature range.

### Choosing Insulation

But insulation won't do any good if you don't have proper air barriers — if your house jacket isn't zipped. While loose-fill fiberglass or fiberglass batts keep heat from moving in or out of your house, they do little to stop air flow. In fact, if every single joint and crack is not sealed with caulk or expanding foam, your fiberglass batt insulation does little more than catch dust.

"If you look at your insulation around the edges and it's black, you've got air infiltration — that's dust being blown through the fiberglass and getting trapped," Dickey reveals.

Cellulose, made from recycled newspapers and blown in, provides good attic insulation because it does more to

stop air flow. Foam insulation, while the most expensive, also boasts the highest R-value — the effectiveness rating given to insulation — and completely blocks air.

Your co-op energy professional can help determine the best type of insulation for your house and also help you work out a payback period on your investment. Check EnergySavers.gov for more information about insulation, and use the ZIP code calculator to find out how much insulation is needed for a location.

The bottom line: "If air is getting through, your energy bills will go up and you won't be comfortable," Dickey concludes.

Sources: Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, E Source

## 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:

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

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:

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 2011, your OHO committee granted \$20,082 to be distributed to needy causes in our community. To the right is a list of OHO recipients for the 2011 year.

OHO Grant Amount	OHO Qtr. Meeting Date	Location of Recipient	Need of Recipient
\$1,000	2/28/11	Rich Hill Township, Muskingum County	Medical Expenses
\$1,000	2/28/11	Rush Township, Tuscarawas County	Medical Expenses
\$400	2/28/11	Cambridge Township, Guernsey County	Replace Hazardous Equipment
\$1,000	2/28/11	Wills Township, Guernsey County	Medical Expenses
\$500	2/28/11	Perry Township, Tuscarawas County	Home Improvements
\$400	2/28/11	Muskingum, Perry & Morgan Counties	2-1-1 Food Pantry Service
\$1,000	2/28/11	Cambridge, Guernsey County	YMCA Expenses
\$1,000	5/23/11	Roseville, Ohio	Medical Expenses
\$400	5/23/11	Madison Township, Guernsey County	Medical Expenses
\$500	5/23/11	Adams Township, Guernsey County	Groceries & Medication
\$500	5/23/11	Westland Township, Guernsey County	Donation
\$500	5/23/11	Wheeling Township, Guernsey County	Housing
\$1,000	8/29/11	Brush Creek Township, Muskingum CO.	Back Property Taxes
\$500	8/29/11	Brush Creek Township, Muskingum CO	Home Improvements
\$1,000	8/29/11	Cambridge, Guernsey County	Medical Expenses
\$400	8/29/11	Newton Township, Muskingum County	Medical Expenses
\$750	8/29/11	Highland Township, Muskingum County	Operating Expenses
\$550	8/29/11	Brush Creek Township, Muskingum CO	Assistance After Home Fire
\$2,000	8/29/11	Washington Township, Muskingum CO	Medical Expenses
\$1,000	8/29/11	Cambridge, Guernsey County	Start Up Costs
\$500	12/5/11	Wayne Township, Muskingum County	Bring House Up To Code
\$1,350	12/5/11	Zanesville, Ohio	Unexpected Expenses — death of husband
\$500	12/5/11	York Township, Morgan County	Medical Expenses
\$1,350	12/5/11	Adams Township, Muskingum County	Bring House Up To Code
\$350	12/5/11	Zanesville, Ohio	Christmas Donation
\$350	12/5/11	Noble County, Ohio	Christmas Donation
\$350	12/5/11	Muskingum County, Ohio	Christmas Donation
\$350	12/5/11	Tuscarawas County, Ohio	Christmas Donation
\$350	12/5/11	Cambridge, Ohio	Christmas Donation
\$350	12/5/11	Zanesville, Ohio	Christmas Donation
\$350	12/5/11	Guernsey & Noble Counties	Christmas Donation
\$350	12/5/11	Morgan County, Ohio	Christmas Donation

## Youth opportunities abound

Guernsey-Muskingum Electric has a long history of supporting its area youth in a variety of activities throughout the year. In this issue you will find two outstanding opportunities that exemplify one of your cooperative's core principles, Commitment to Community: 1) Touchstone Energy® Achievement

Scholarship; and 2) the Washington Youth Tour. You can find more information, including rules and applications, about all of these opportunities at our website, [www.gmenergy.com](http://www.gmenergy.com), or call Heather Baker at 800-521-9879.



# Touchstone Energy®

## Achievement Scholarship

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

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


You must be a graduating high school senior whose parents are members of a Touchstone Energy® Ohio rural electric cooperative.

*Application deadline: March 2*

**Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives  
Four \$1,700 Scholarships**

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

For further information, contact:  
**[www.gmenergy.com](http://www.gmenergy.com)**  
**Heather Baker**  
**740-826-7661 or 800-521-9879**



## 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 the opportunity to use their knowledge and wit to compete for a FREE weeklong trip to Washington, D.C.

You'll meet up with 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?

You must be a high school sophomore or junior, and your parents or legal guardian must be members of an Ohio electric cooperative. Selected students should be energetic and eager to make the most out of this fun opportunity to learn.

### HOW WILL THE FINALISTS BE CHOSEN?

Interested students should contact Heather Baker at Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative for the rules and judging criteria to be a part of this year's Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. Heather can be reached at [hbaker@gmenergy.com](mailto:hbaker@gmenergy.com) or by calling 826-7661.