

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 BayChairman
Jim RexVice Chairman
Jay GraySecy.-Treasurer
John EnosDirector
Brian HillDirector
Duane ParksDirector
Shirley StutzDirector
Daniel J. GunsettCounsel
Jerry Kackley ..General Manager/CEO

Electric Rates

Farm and Home Service
rate schedule R-1*

Service Availability Charge

\$18/month

First 500 kWh/month

@ 13.069¢/kWh

Over 500 kWh/month

@ 10.945¢/kWh

Seasonal Residential Service
annual rate schedule S-1*

Service Availability Charge

\$216/year

First 800 kWh/year

@ 21.069¢/kWh

Over 800 to 6,000 kWh/year

@ 11.945¢/kWh

Over 6,000 kWh/year

@ 10.945¢/kWh

(Your minimum annual charge will be \$216 per year for service between March 1, 2012, and Feb. 29, 2013.)

Commercial Service
rate schedule C-1*

Service Availability Charge

\$18/month

First 1,500 kWh/month

@ 13.069¢/kWh

Over 1,500 kWh/month

@ 10.945¢/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

I've got your back

SAFETY ENCOMPASSES MANY THINGS from tools to rules to attitudes. Many people might identify safety as that thick manual we are required to understand...procedures and work rules that must be followed as part of our job. Some rules are very helpful while others seem to only slow us down or make our work more difficult or tedious...just a hassle.

It is important for each of us to understand that every rule, no matter how foolish it may seem, came into existence in order to protect...to protect a worker from a life-changing injury or death...to protect a family from the anguish of seeing someone that they love suffer through a long recovery... or worse yet...to endure the heartbreak of losing them forever.

One of the greatest rules I know isn't written in the book...isn't studied and analyzed...and it's very simple. It helps to assure that each worker is able to return at the end of the day. This rule is instilled in every athlete and soldier and it is embedded in the heart and mind of every conscientious worker...it is encompassed by a few simple words, "I've got your back."

We each need to understand that there will be times when we are tempted to bend the rules...we're tired...there are 50 things left to do and we're running out of time. Whatever the reason, I hope that we make the right choice and follow the rules...but if we don't, I pray that someone will be there to say "I've got your back, take a break," or "I'll help and we can get this done together." We all need a friend and coworker brave enough to risk losing a friendship so that they don't take a chance on losing a friend, someone to remind us to follow the rules, that safety comes first, that your family needs you and we need you.

The summer storm of 2012, perhaps the storm of the century, tested the patience of our members, the strength of our communities and the dedication of our employees. I saw employees and contractors working long hours in the field in miserable conditions. I saw employees dispatching crews...managing the tremendous amount of work that needed to be done...doing everything possible to keep everyone safe. I saw employees, under a great deal of stress themselves, answering one call after another from distressed, desperate and even angry members. I saw other employees getting snacks and washing clothes for contractors. There was one goal in mind, to help their co-workers and the members of this cooperative. Most of our members understand that our employees "have their backs" and our employees appreciate that our members have their backs also.

I hope that all of us will to do our best, with God's help, to always be there to tell each other that, "I've got your back." This is simply an attitude of caring. Our continued success as an organization depends upon it and, more importantly, so may our lives.



Jerry Kackley
General Manager/CEO

Home Show

The Swing Into Spring Home Show is being held Friday, March 8, through Sunday, March 10, at the Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center in Cambridge. Make sure to stop by the Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative booth to pick up some ideas on improving your home's energy efficiency. We hope to see you there.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

76th ANNUAL MEETING Saturday, April 13

Larry W Miller Intermediate School, New Concord

REGISTRATION AT 9:30 A.M. • BUSINESS MEETING AT NOON

Mark your calendars now for your cooperative's annual meeting. Join your fellow member/owners in electing members to your board, hearing updates from your cooperative leaders and learning about various programs offered.



As always food, entertainment and demonstrations will be held throughout the day. There is something for everyone! There will be a light lunch, light bulbs and an attendance appreciation gift. In an effort to reduce costs, there will NOT be a \$10 energy

credit for attendance this year.

Be sure to look for your official invitation and more information in your April issue of *Country Living*.

Election of directors

The provisions for electing members to the board of directors are included in the Guernsey-Muskingum's Code of Regulations. If you wish, please call your cooperative for a copy or go to www.gmenergy.com. In summary:

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS:

One or more member-consumers are eligible for nomination to each available position on the board. Nominees must reside in the cooperative district they are nominated to represent. All nominations are made from the floor at the annual meeting.

VOTING:

Each member shall be entitled to one vote and no more upon each matter submitted to a vote at the meeting. All questions shall be decided by a vote of a majority of the members present at the meeting. The spouse of a member not present may vote on behalf of such a member at the meeting.

One director from each of the following districts will be elected for a three-year term:

District 3 – includes Muskingum County townships of Blue Rock, Brush Creek, Clay, Harrison and Meigs; Morgan County townships of Bloom, Bristol, Manchester, Meigsville and York; and Noble County townships of Brookfield and Sharon.

District 5 – includes Guernsey County township of Wheeling; Harrison County township of Freeport; Tuscarawas County townships of Clay, Oxford, Perry, Rush, Salem and Washington.



GMEC welcomes Troy Carpenter

Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative, Inc. welcomes Troy Carpenter to the cooperative crew. He began employment in January as a lineman. Troy, his wife Jennifer, and children — Ally and Owen — are residents of Guernsey County. He brings work experience from Pike Electric.



We welcome Troy to the cooperative's crew!


 ASK YOUR
ENERGY
ADVISOR


Ray Crock,
Energy Advisor

Biggest user

YOU'VE HAD YOUR FRIDGE FOREVER. With the exception of some crumbling parts of the seal, it's in pretty good shape and keeps your food cold. Why worry about budgeting for an upgrade?

For starters, inefficient appliances can have a huge impact on your home's monthly electric bill. Replacing a refrigerator made before 1993

with a new, ENERGY STAR-rated model could knock \$65 to \$100 off your power costs each year.

When evaluating older appliances, one key question emerges: Which is the biggest user? To estimate the energy consumption of an appliance, use this general formula provided by the U.S. Department of Energy's EnergySavers.gov:

$$\frac{(\text{Wattage} \times \text{Hours used per day} \times \text{Days used per year})}{1,000} = \text{Annual kilowatt-hours (kWh) used}$$

Remember: 1,000 watts = 1 kilowatt (kW).

Then calculate the annual cost to use an appliance by multiplying the kWh per year by rate per kWh used.

For example, a PC and monitor:

$$\frac{[(120 \text{ Watts} + 150 \text{ Watts}) \times 4 \text{ hours per day} \times 365 \text{ days per year}]}{1000}$$

$$= 394 \text{ kWh} \times 11.5 \text{ cents/kWh}$$

$$= \$45.31/\text{year}$$

You can usually find the wattage of most appliances stamped on the bottom or back of the appliance or on its nameplate. The wattage listed shows the maximum power drawn by the appliance. Because some appliances have a range of settings — just like the volume on a radio — the actual amount of power consumed depends on the setting used at any one time. Or you can invest in a kill-a-watt meter to measure the use of your appliances.

Keep in mind that as electronics and appliances become more technologically savvy, they often draw power even while turned off. A good indicator of this — called “phantom load” — is to check the device for a light that stays on all the time.

Phantom load will add a few watt-hours to energy consumption, but a few watt-hours on each of your many electronic devices adds up. To avoid this silent power draw, unplug the device or invest in a “smart” power strip, which allows certain electronics — like a cable box, which takes time to reboot after it's been unplugged — to continue using electricity while others can be completely shut down.

Here are examples of the range of wattages for common household appliances:

Clothes washer: 350–500 Watts

Clothes dryer: 1,800–5,000 Watts

Dishwasher: 1,200–2,400 Watts (heat drying feature increases energy use)

Hair dryer: 1,200–1,875 Watts

Microwave oven: 750–1,100 Watts

Refrigerator (frost-free, 16 cubic feet): 725 Watts

Once you calculate how much money you spend to run aging home appliances, compare this to what it would cost to use more efficient models. There are other benefits, too. For example, not only have clothes washers become 64 percent more energy efficient since 2000, but the tub size has increased by 9 percent. With a new model you can wash more clothes for less money every month.

Don't want the hassle of adding up the potential savings? Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives' website, www.TogetherWeSave.com, demonstrates how small changes like replacing an appliance or unplugging electronics lead to big energy savings. On the website under 'Add Up Your Savings,' you can walk through a typical home's kitchen, living room and other common areas. Upgrade appliances and make other energy-smart choices in each room. Each time you make a change, you're shown how much money you could save on your annual electric bill. ☺

Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers, ENERGY STAR

The best way to see how much energy small (120v) appliances use is with a Kill A Watt meter. It will keep track of the amount of kilowatts used and the time period measured. Then divide kWhs by the hours measured and multiply by 720 hours in a 30-day month (kWh/hours x 720) to get the monthly use. They are great to measure appliances that vary on run time as well as “phantom” or “vampire” load, like televisions, refrigerators, freezers and aquariums with heaters.

Kill A Watt meters can be purchased at most home improvement stores and we have a small quantity available through GMEC at \$20 each.



What can I do, when I lose power?

Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative, Inc. serves 16,750 meters in nine counties. The average time per meter without power in 2012 was 78 hours or 3.25 days. Remember June 29th and the July 4th holiday when temperatures soared over 100 degrees and we first learned the term Derecho? The average time per meter without power in the five previous years was 16 hours, or less than one day.

There is a saying, "Plan for the worst and hope for the best." June 29 gave us the worst outage time since your cooperative was founded in 1938. We can certainly hope we don't have a repeat, but we should always "plan for the worst, and hope for the best." What can you do to plan and react for power outages, lasting one hour or one week?

Plan... Think about what resources you have.

- A generator and a safe way to use it?
- Available fuel or containers to store fuel?
- Family and/or neighbors who may need your help?
- Emergency kit, including a five-day supply of water, non-perishables and first aid supplies?
- Radio, flashlights and the necessary batteries?
- 12 volt plug-in inverter to charge phones, etc. with your vehicle?
- Emergency phone numbers including 800-521-9879, Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative?

Act... When the storm is looming and may cause damage?

- Go inside, lightning can kill!
- Unplug electrical devices. This is the only "sure way" to protect your appliances, even with surge protection!
- Go to the basement or bathtub when a tornado or high winds are evident!
- Protect your pets!
- Discuss with your family a plan for after the storm passes. What and who needs to be checked on?

Hope... For the best

React...After the storm is over.

- Be patient, wait for all dangers to pass.
- Be careful leaving your home, downed power lines or trees may be hidden in the dark.

- Never approach a downed power line! Consider all low or downed wires as energized! They may be!
- Never step into a flooded basement if water is covering electrical appliances or cords.
- Never touch electrical appliances while you are wet or standing in water.
- If you lose power, call 800-521-9879 or 740-826-7661, when thousands are out, it may take several calls.
- Have your information available when calling: name, address, account or meter number.
- GMEC pole numbers are identified with vertical yellow numbers on the pole.
- Did you hear or see anything which may assist linemen like fallen trees, big bangs or broken poles?
- Keep communications accurate, but brief. Storm stories are fascinating but slow the restoration process.
- Phone operators do not know "how long" individual outages will last. Crews need to arrive near your home to trouble-shoot your outage.
- Respect linemen's time. Complaints or "courteous chat" is common, but slows the restoration process.
- Thank the line crews and allow them to help other members still without power.
- Linemen appreciate the thanks, but want to get everyone "back on" as soon as possible.
- Check on family/neighbors who may need help.

Thanks to all our members for your understanding and assistance during all power outages, lasting one hour, or one week!

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 light bulbs. (Limit 12 bulbs) Thanks for reading the "local pages" of *Country Living* magazine.

- #10-0028-23-00Bernard W. Bissett
- #12-0249-18-01.....Troy Sowers
- #17-0336-03-03.....Darren E. Graham
- #22-0291-35-00.....Charles H. Blosser
- #27-0342-36-00Matthew Scott
- #29-0300-01-00.....Jeffery L. VanFossen
- #71-0306-04-00Joey Dingey
- #95-0003-03-00Ralph Savage