

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
\$16/month
First 500 kWh/month
@ 11.519¢/kWh
Over 500 kWh/month
@ 9.395¢/kWh

Seasonal Residential Service annual rate schedule S-1

Service Availability Charge
\$192/year
First 800 kWh/year
@ 19.519¢/kWh
Over 800 to 6,000 kWh/year
@ 10.395¢/kWh
Over 6,000 kWh/year
@ 9.395¢/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
@ 11.519¢/kWh
Over 1,500 kWh/month
@ 9.395¢/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

New meters

One of the main goals at Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative is to control costs for its members. We work every day to achieve this goal. Keeping the system up-to-date technologically and well maintained helps to control costs. Programs such as right-of-way clearing, meter testing and installing new meters continually help maintain and improve our system.

Currently there are three types of meters in place along Guernsey-Muskingum lines: mechanical, digital and digital automated meter reading (AMR). Most common is the mechanical meter, which has a rotating disk and numbers that rotate, similar to older-style cars' odometers. Digital meters and AMR meters look almost identical. They both have a digital readout of your kilowatt-hour (kWh) reading and will flash. This flashing is part of its own testing cycle and is a normal process. The AMR meters have small LED lights on the side; the red one indicates that the meter is receiving power and the amber light shows if it is receiving a signal or not. These lights are not on the mechanical or digital meters.

We completed a pilot program of AMR meters on the U.S. 40 substation in 2008 and have gradually been replacing all meters on this substation. The Senecaville and Antrim substations will be equipped later this year with the AMR technology. When a GMEC employee arrives to change your meter and you are not home, a note will be left on your door to notify you of the change. We anticipate that it will take several years to complete all the upgrades necessary to have all members' meters changed. Until you are notified, please continue reading and returning a meter reading each month.

With the installation of AMR meters, the cooperative will be able to reduce the cost of reading meters and increase billing accuracy. It will also give us the ability to move to advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) in the future. AMI is a component of a term many of you may be familiar with — "Smart Grid." To keep electric bills affordable, a smarter grid will provide tools to help members manage their electric use, while the device will help with the detection of outages and reduce the cooperative's operation costs.

AMR meters will save money and saving money means we can keep your rates as low as possible. Guernsey-Muskingum Electric remains member-focused while utilizing new technology for the benefit of its members.



Scholarship Day



Susan Cherry

Each spring since 1954, Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative, Inc., has sponsored scholarship awards to high school seniors. The cooperative awards one \$1,000 first-place award, one \$500 second-place award, one \$300 third-place award and one \$200 fourth-place award, each, in the girls' division and in the boys' division.



Kevin Bell

On Scholarship Day, Feb. 26, applicants participated in interviews judged by two teams of judges. Judges for the girls' division were Dr. Steve Kokovich, Muskingum University; Kari Hitzel, WB Green Insurance; and Dorothy Montgomery, retired Muskingum County Commissioner. Judges for the boys' division were Ray Chorey, Southeastern Ohio Regional Medical Center; Dr. Barb Hansen, Muskingum University; and Dr. Howard Beazel, psychologist.



Alissa Bodner

Points in the competition were given for scholastic record, personal achievement, school and community activities, personal interview and an essay question. Interviews began at 7:15 a.m. and continued until 11:30. Following the interviews, the participants and their parents enjoyed a luncheon in the cooperative's community room.



Benjamin Van-Dyne

First-place winner in the girls' division was **Susan Cherry**, the daughter of Neil and Faye Cherry of Crooksville. Susan attends Crooksville High School. She is an International Thespian Officer on the Education Theatre Association. Susan is also president of her class, a member of the National Honor Society, vice president of the drama club and a member of the

marching band. Susan plans to attend Kenyon College, but is undecided on a major.

First-place winner in the boys' division was **Kevin Bell**, the son of Craig and Traci Bell of Frazeytsburg. Kevin attends Tri-Valley High School. He is a member of the National Honor Society, swim team and Spanish Club. Kevin is an active member in his church and was awarded the Eagle Award in Boy Scouts. He will be attending Brigham Young University to study computer engineering.

Susan and Kevin will represent Guernsey-Muskingum on May 9 in statewide competition at the Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc., in Columbus, competing for \$24,120 in scholarships.

Second-place winner in the girls' division was **Alissa Bodner**, who attends Buckeye Trail High School and is the daughter of David and Joy Bodner of Salesville. She plans to study music education. Second-place winner in the boys' division was **Benjamin VanDyne**, who attends Cambridge High School and is the son of James and Nancy VanDyne of Lore City. He plans to attend Muskingum University to study pre-law with a major in business and minor in political science.

Third-place winner in the girls' division was **Alyssa Crock**, who attends West Muskingum High School and is the daughter of Robert and Connie Crock of Hopewell. She plans to attend The Ohio State University to study engineering physics. Third-place winner in the boys' division was **Cameron Godfrey**, who attends Tri-Valley High School and is the son of Andrew and Marcy Godfrey of Dresden. He plans to attend Muskingum University to study chemistry.

Fourth-place winner in the girls' division was **Angelia Werner**, who attends Buckeye Trail High School and is the daughter of David and Kathleen Jones of Kimbolton. She plans to attend Kent State University to study anthropology. Fourth-place winner in the boys' division was **Timothy Bongiovanni**, who attends Meadowbrook High School and is the son of Bryan and Chris Stoney of Byesville. He plans to attend The Ohio State University to study pharmacy.



Alyssa Crock



Cameron Godfrey



Angelia Werner



Timothy Bongiovanni

This year 19 students from nine high schools competed for the awards. The seniors participating were:

Buckeye Trail

Alexa Abrams
Cheyanne Bamfield
Alissa Bodner
Angelia Werner

Cambridge

Addy Ruby
Benjamin VanDyne

Crooksville

Susan Cherry

Granville

Elizabeth Untied

John Glenn

Tori Clark
Stephanie Shaffer

Meadowbrook

Timothy Bongiovanni

Philo

Kendra Raney

Tri-Valley

Kevin Bell
Ashley Brown
Haylie Canter
Cameron Godfrey
Kalie Hennessy
Ellen Ring

West Muskingum

Alyssa Crock



Seal manufactured home air leaks to slash electric bills



*Ray Crock,
Energy Advisor*

If energy bills for your manufactured home seem too high, the likely culprits are air leaks. Here are some tips from your Energy Advisor that can help you stop leaks from your home — and your wallet.

Older manufactured homes, especially those built before 1994, may be plagued by leaking ducts and inadequate insulation. Leaky ductwork can reduce the efficiency of your heating and cooling system by as much as 20 percent. A good time to check for leaks is on a windy day, when you'll be able to find drafty spots.

Experts recommend going after big leaks first. That means plugging all holes around chimneys, vents, water pipes and heating system ductwork. Seal any duct leaks with mastic. Avoid the use of duct tape, which can dry out and disintegrate over time. Adding insulation to floor, walls and ceiling cavities can improve energy efficiency, but may be a job for a professional contractor.

Once you've sealed major leaks, look for smaller ones — around windows, doors, electrical outlets and light switches. Seal gaps around windows and doors, using caulk on non-moving parts. And replace any worn weatherstripping.

Caulk or expanding spray foam are perfect in spots

where plumbing, wiring, vents and ducting penetrate through walls. Installing foam outlet gaskets behind electrical outlets and light switches — especially on outside walls — can save energy, too.

For safety's sake, make sure that all combustion appliances, such as furnaces, stoves and water heaters, are properly vented.

For other tips on how to save energy — and money — visit www.TogetherWeSave.com, or call your Energy Advisor, Ray Crock, at 800-521-9879.



Office hours changing

Summer hours begin Tuesday, May 31.

The office will be open

Monday – Friday

7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Saturday 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

(Drive-up service only)

The cooperative's night depository is always available for your convenience after business hours.

Attaching signs to poles is dangerous



Attaching signs or other objects to utility poles without the electric utility's consent can be dangerous for our linemen.

Signs and other illegal attachments to power poles make the poles extremely hazardous — and sometimes impossible — for linemen to climb and make repairs. It only takes a nail partially driven into a pole to cause serious injury to a lineman. Nail holes also allow moisture to enter wooden poles, causing premature decay and expense of early replacement.

In addition to signs, the cooperative has also seen deer stands, bird feeders, basketball rims, satellite dishes and other illegal attachments. It often is impractical and costly to send a lineman to remove pole attachments.

Line crews climb utility poles at all hours of the day and night, in the worst of conditions. Signs, birdhouses and other attachments create serious hazards for our linemen. Sharp objects like nails, tacks or staples can puncture rubber gloves and other safety equipment, making linemen vulnerable to electrocution. Please be respectful of co-op equipment and property. Fixtures not belonging to the cooperative or another utility will be removed.

Did you know?

Standby power is typically 5 to 10 percent of residential electricity use. Most appliances consume electricity even when not in use. So if it's something you don't use often, unplug it and save.

Guernsey-Muskingum Electric will be closed Monday, May 31, in observance of Memorial Day.



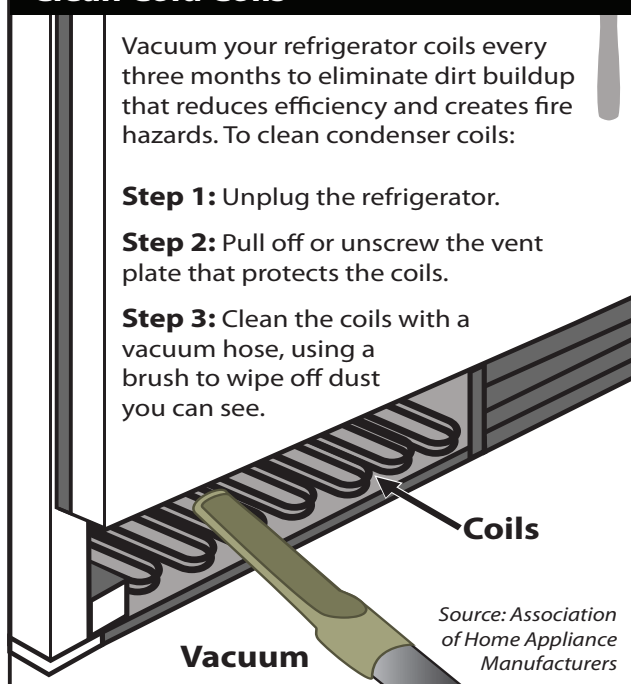
Clean Cold Coils

Vacuum your refrigerator coils every three months to eliminate dirt buildup that reduces efficiency and creates fire hazards. To clean condenser coils:

Step 1: Unplug the refrigerator.

Step 2: Pull off or unscrew the vent plate that protects the coils.

Step 3: Clean the coils with a vacuum hose, using a brush to wipe off dust you can see.



Are your name and location/account number here?

If it is, 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.

- #15-0287-02-02Dristy N Campbell
- #18-0417-03-01Virginia Porter
- #25-0130-07-00James A Thiesen
- #31-0474-18-00Melba M Kennedy
- #43-0046-12-02Chad Wittmer
- #46-0156-25-01Elaine Burrell
- #53-0045-01-08James Cottle
- #66-0056-02-01Bret A Leonard