

# 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  
Jim Rex .....Vice Chairman  
Jay Gray .....Secy.-Treasurer  
John Enos .....Director  
Brian Hill .....Director  
Duane Parks .....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  
\$16/month  
First 500 kWh/month  
@ 12.069¢/kWh  
Over 500 kWh/month  
@ 9.945¢/kWh

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

Service Availability Charge  
\$192/year  
First 800 kWh/year  
@ 20.069¢/kWh  
Over 800 to 6,000 kWh/year  
@ 10.945¢/kWh  
Over 6,000 kWh/year  
@ 9.945¢/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  
@ 12.069¢/kWh  
Over 1,500 kWh/month  
@ 9.945¢/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 

## Leave the pole alone

### Placing a sign on a utility pole could endanger a life

What do yard sale signs, basketball hoops, deer stands, satellite dishes and birdhouses have in common? They're often found illegally attached to utility poles. But this isn't only a crime of inconvenience. Safety issues caused by unapproved pole attachments place the lives of lineworkers and the public in peril.

It may seem innocent, but a small nail partially driven into a pole can have deadly results around high-voltage electricity.

Your local electric co-op line crews climb utility poles at all hours of the day and night, in the worst of conditions. Anything attached to utility poles can create serious hazards for our line personnel. Sharp objects like nails, tacks, staples or barbed wire can puncture rubber gloves and other safety equipment, making linemen vulnerable to electrocution.

Lineworkers with electric co-ops have reported poles used as community bulletin boards, satellite mounts and even support legs for deer stands, lights and car ports. Not only do these attachments put line crews at risk, but anyone illegally placing these items on poles comes dangerously close to energized power lines with thousands of volts of energy pulsing overhead. It's always wise to keep any structure at least 10 feet away from utility poles.

Unauthorized pole attachments violate the National Electrical Safety Code, the accepted manual containing guidelines for safe electrical engineering standards. Utilities strictly follow this code, which includes a section that reads, "Signs, posters, notices and other attachments shall not be placed on supporting structures without concurrence of the owner (the utility is the owner of the pole). Supporting structures should be kept free from other climbing hazards such as tacks, nails, vines and through bolts not properly trimmed."

Please help us keep our linemen — and our community — safe. Don't attach any of these unauthorized and dangerous items to utility poles. Fixtures not belonging to the cooperative or another utility will be removed by co-op line personnel; the co-op is not responsible for any losses if an item is damaged or destroyed during removal.



## Cooperative holiday hours

**Office closed: Thanksgiving, Thursday, Nov. 24**  
**Office closed: Day after Thanksgiving, Friday, Nov. 25**  
**Office closed: Christmas Eve, Friday, December 23**  
**Office closed: Christmas Day, Monday, December 26**  
**Office closed: New Year's Day, Friday, December 30**

If outages occur during these holidays, someone will be working at the G-M office round-the-clock to dispatch a trouble crew to correct your problem. G-M's drop box is always available for your convenience.



## Veterans Day

Guernsey-Muskingum Electric thanks all veterans and their families for their sacrifices.



Ray Crock,  
Energy Advisor

## Time to save money this winter

The leaves have fallen and winter is around the corner. As we wind down on lawn work, we can turn our attention to our homes and doing the little chores that can save money and energy this winter, and also keep us more comfortable. We have also reached more ideal weather to perform an energy audit on your home.

I have been amazed at the things I have found over the last few years of performing blower door tests and infrared scans of members homes. Each one is like going on a treasure hunt where opportunities are found in some very unusual places. And these opportunities have been in brand-new as well as really old homes and ranged from large \$1 million homes to \$500 mobile homes. I really don't care what you live in (a person's home is

their castle); my goal is to help you make your home more comfortable and waste fewer of your energy dollars. When I don't find many opportunities, I feel like I failed, but this is actually a great thing because it means your home is in pretty good shape and your to-do list didn't get as large.

"What is a blower door?" you ask. It is an amazing device that consists of a framed canvas door enclosure, a high-powered fan, a controller and some metering equipment. I place it in one of the outside doorways and the fan exhausts air from the house. With the building having a lower air pressure, outside air wants to enter through any crack, gap or hole. I check the house at negative 50 Pascal, which is like a 20 mph wind hitting the house on all sides. Leaks can account for a lot of lost energy dollars, and they are not where you would always expect.

The infrared camera is a device that shows everything in temperature differences. It is great to spot leaks while running the blower door. I can also spot voids in or lack of insulation in walls and attics if the temperature difference between inside and outside is great enough. I even spotted a varmint (probably a raccoon) sleeping in one old home's attic.

So if you would like to see if you can save some heating and cooling dollars or gain some comfort in your home, call Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative and get your name on the list to have an energy audit performed this winter. There is no charge for GMEC members, but you do run the risk of a sizable to-do list when we are done.

## 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 July 2011 bill. Since that time, it has been at the 6.85 cents per kilowatt-hour level. Looking ahead and projecting the rate for the next three months, the GTC will increase by 4.5 mills to 7.30 cents per kilowatt-hour, effective with the October bill, which you will receive on or about Nov. 10.

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

**HOLIDAY WORKSHOP**

The 13th Annual Holiday Workshop is Wednesday, Nov. 2.

We will only be holding one workshop in the evening from 6 to 9 p.m. at East Muskingum Middle School in New Concord.

This year will be filled with great learning opportunities including how to make bows, couponing 101 and stamping. If you would like to attend this fun-filled evening, please call Member Services at 740-826-7661 or 1-800-521-9879. There is no charge to attend.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn some great tips to help you prepare for the holiday season.

**Energy Efficiency**  
*Tip of the Month*

Be sure to clean the coils on your refrigerators and freezers once a year. Use a vacuum and a long, soft-bristled brush, but be careful not to damage the coils. Dirty and clogged coils prevent heat from dissipating from them. The unit then runs longer and harder to keep your food cold, causing it to use much more electricity.

## Co-op Connections Card

All co-op members should have received their Co-op Connections® Card in September of last year to use at local and national businesses to receive discounts. This card also features a prescription discount available at many local and chain pharmacies in our area. In its first year Guernsey-Muskingum members saved more than \$39,500 on their prescriptions by using the Co-op Connections Card.

To maximize the benefits of the discount pharmacy program, here are some tips:

Find a participating pharmacy by calling 800-800-7616 or visit [www.locateproviders.com](http://www.locateproviders.com) and use code 22203 as the group number under the “Groups” login section. Next, enter your ZIP code and a mile radius to search for providers near you.

Present your Co-op Connections Card along with your prescriptions at a participating pharmacy. The pharmacy can compare the Co-op Connections Card discount price with their price and the prices of any other discount programs you may be enrolled, to offer you the best price.

To ensure members always save money on their prescription drugs, a unique mail order program was created to complement the network pharmacy bene-



fit. Since most maintenance (long-term) medications are purchased in 90-day supplies, members maximize savings and have the convenience of home delivery (at no additional charge) by ordering through the mail order option by calling 877-839-8121.

Have you lost your Co-op Connections Card? Call us and we will send you a replacement.

### Did you know?

Uninsulated, or poorly insulated, ductwork in unconditioned spaces can waste 10 to 30 percent of the energy used to heat and cool your home. Double-check your ducts to make sure they are sealed and properly insulated.

## Building changes

Your cooperative office has undergone “change.” The building, dedicated in 1964, is in need of a roof replacement. Your cooperative has taken this opportunity to improve the building’s roof with a steeper pitch, better insulation and metal.

Like your home, when change presents itself, so do opportunities — opportunities to make energy-efficiency decisions for lower long-term energy costs. New lighting fixtures will replace the old. Windows will be upgraded to replace the single-pane glass installed in the early '60s, and a more efficient heating and cooling system will be installed. The building’s

heating and cooling system has served us well for nearly 50 years. The entire project will not be completed in 2011, but in 2012 all members will be encouraged to stop by the “old” office with a “new” look.

To help members during these improvements, a temporary office for cash payments has been set up at 14 Depot Street, which is two blocks west. A payment drop box remains in front of 17 S. Liberty — No Cash, Please! No services will be disrupted during this process, and appointments can be made by calling 1-800-521-9879.



## Choosing the right electric heater

All electric heaters use the same method to change electricity into heat. They all have the same efficiency — 100 percent. There are no losses. Whatever the marketing claims, the amount of heat coming out is determined by the amount of electricity that is going in. Therefore, any two heaters with a rating of 1,500 watts will deliver the same amount of heat, no matter what they look like.

Electric heaters differ in three primary ways in how heat is transferred to the person to be warmed. When choosing a heater, determine which type is best for how and where you will use it, as each has its strong points.

**High-temperature radiant electric heaters** are characterized by easily visible heating elements, with a shiny reflector behind them. The elements could be metal coils, wires or a quartz material. Radiant heaters don't attempt to heat the air, but rely on providing warmth directly to the people or objects in front of them.

Unlike space heaters, which must warm the surrounding air before you feel comfortable, a radiant heater delivers heat instantly to those within four to five feet of it. Radiant heaters work well for those who will be sitting down where the distance between you and the heater will not change.

**Natural convection electric heaters** are warm to the touch but not hot enough to burn you. These heaters use the flow of air over their surface to warm the air. As the air becomes heated, it rises and is replaced by cooler air from the room, creating a cycle of air flow. Natural convection heaters put out just as much warmth, but you don't feel the intense heat of a radiant design.

Natural convection heaters are ideal to place in a room with small children and can be placed closer to furniture and curtains without the hazard of burns or fire.

**Fan-forced heaters** use a fan to push air over the heating coils and into the room. They operate much in the same way as a home's furnace. Fan-forced heaters deliver a constant flow of hot air, but they can only warm a modest-sized room. Be sure to consider the noise from fan-forced heaters for the application you wish to use it for.

**Which heater is for you?** For all three types of heaters, safety features should be an important purchase consideration. A tip-over switch that automatically cuts power is a must. Also look for sturdy screens and grills that will keep objects out. Avoid using extension cords with an electric heater.

All three types of portable heaters can be used for zonal heating. This method can save energy, but only if you lower the setting on the home's central heating thermostat. Then in the occupied room use a space heater to raise the temperature to a comfortable level.

As a final consideration, there are some heaters available in attractive wood cabinets that can serve as a piece of furniture. They are much more expensive than standard portable heaters and offer no advantage in efficiency.

### Winner



Congratulations to Aino and Johann Lutterus for winning the electric grill from registering at the Guernsey County Fair. Johann was excited about their prize, stating, "We never win anything."

## Happy Thanksgiving

Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors and employees wishes all members a Happy Thanksgiving.

### 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.

#11-0101-21-00 .....	Steve D. Osborn	#41-0003-25-01 .....	Robert E. Hooper
#21-0384-03-00 ...	Dwight L. Minner Jr	#51-1050-42-01 .....	Heather Ginn
#31-0067-04-01 .....	Ruth A. Dodson	#56-0257-24-01 .....	Robert E. Beall
#38-0220-07-00	Robert P. Carmichael	#71-0010-04-00 .....	Carl D. Williams