

# 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

## New GMEC linemen

Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative, Inc., welcomes Chad Wittmer to the cooperative crew. Chad began employment in October as a journeyman lineman. He is a lifetime resident of Guernsey County and lives with his wife, Mandy, and their four children in Quaker City. Chad brings work experience from JF Electric. He enjoys hunting and farming. We welcome Chad to the cooperative crew!



And returning to the GMEC line crews is Frank Wells. Frank was with the cooperative from 1999 to 2009 and returned in October of this year. He lives with his wife, Debbie, in Cumberland. They have two grown children and one grandchild. Frank enjoys hunting, woodworking and riding horses. Welcome back, Frank!

*Merry Christmas and Best Wishes  
for the New Year  
from the Board of Directors  
and employees of  
Guernsey-Muskingum  
Electric Cooperative, Inc.*

## Cooperative holiday hours

**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.

## 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 three outstanding opportunities that exemplify one of your cooperative's core principles: Commitment to Community: 1) Scholarship Day; 2) Touchstone

Energy® Achievement Scholarship; and 3) 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 25*

**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 Seniors

*Are your parents members of an electric cooperative?*

**You could win a college, vocational or technical school scholarship of**

# \$2,900\*

**Contact your electric cooperative for details on how you can enter**

*\*First place for each division, boys' and girls'*

For information, contact:

[www.gmenergy.com](http://www.gmenergy.com)

**Heather Baker**

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



Touchstone Energy®  
Cooperatives

OREC Scholarship

Second place: .....\$2,000

Third place: .....\$1,700

Fourth place: .....\$1,600

Fifth place: .....\$1,500

Sixth place: .....\$1,400

Seventh place: .....\$1,300

Guernsey-Muskingum  
Scholarship

First place: .....\$1,000

Second place: .....\$500

Third place: .....\$300

Fourth place: .....\$200

\*\*Proper vocational or technical schools must educate beyond high school and credits earned must be transferable to a state-accredited college.

*Deadline Feb. 3*

## 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 Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc., and your local electric cooperative that gives deserving high school sophomores and juniors like you 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?

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 is Friday, March 2. All qualified applicants will be interviewed on Wednesday, March 14.



Ray Crock,  
Energy Advisor

## Timers can save you money

The use of electric timers can add up to some significant energy savings. Setting a lamp to be on for five hours in the evening and/or morning rather than 24 hours a day could save \$41.60 per year with a 60-watt bulb (or \$10.48/year with a 15-watt CFL).

They can also really save this month with Christmas lighting. With cold weather here, consider plugging your diesel truck into a timer. At 900 watts, having it heat for two hours in the morning rather than all night (12 hours) would save \$27.90 per month.

Make sure the timer is rated for the wattage load you are planning to put on it. The higher-rated timers are more costly, but the payoff is still quick. I use my 15-amp timer on my truck in the winter and my pool pump in the summer.

### 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.

- #10-0088-14-03 .....Richard A Beach
- #13-0308-56-00 .....Michael H Seward
- #24-0013-06-04 .....Dorene J Baker
- #37-0127-22-04 .....Bonnie Sparkman
- #41-0018-07-08 .....Kenneth J Temple
- #48-0086-09-02 .....Adam Butler
- #56-0096-23-00 .....Rollin Welch
- #65-0039-14-00 .....William R Pfeffer

## Giving the gift of efficiency

BY BRIAN SLOBODA,  
COOPERATIVE RESEARCH NETWORK

Holiday decorating can cause spikes in your January electric bill. One great way to keep your light displays from breaking the bank is to invest in light-emitting diodes, or LEDs.



### LED holiday lights are:

- **Energy efficient.** They use 70 percent less energy than traditional incandescent light strings.
- **Long-lasting.** They boast a lifespan up to 10 times longer than incandescent lamps.
- **Safe.** They stay cool to the touch, reducing the risk of fire.
- **Sturdy.** Bulbs are made of epoxy, not glass, making them much more durable than other lights.

LED holiday lights come in a wide variety of colors, shapes and lengths and are available at many home improvement, wholesale, drug and grocery stores. Although LEDs might be more expensive than incandescent lights at the time of purchase, energy savings

over their life make them a big money saver. And prices continue to fall as the technology becomes less expensive. At HomeDepot.com, you can get a 50-count strand of white lights or multicolored lights for around \$12.

Try LED light strands — they consume far less energy and last up to 10 times as long as traditional incandescent lights.

Source: GE

The brightness and color of LED lights have also come a long way over the last few years. For white lights, you can choose between cool white (a bright icy-blue white) or warm white (a yellow tint that's the closest to a white incandescent replacement).

Make sure the lights you buy are labeled for indoor or outdoor use, depending on where you want to place them. Decorating outside with indoor lights can shorten the life of the bulbs.

For even more energy savings, use a timer to turn on holiday lights from 6 to 10 p.m.

When purchasing your lights, make sure the packaging bears the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) label. That means an independent testing group has thoroughly checked the product for safety hazards such as fire and shock.

One more thing to keep an eye out for involves lumen output of the lights. Traditionally, light bulbs have been based on their power use — or how many watts they consume. Beginning in January 2012, all light bulbs will carry a label showing the lumens of the bulb, or how bright it is. More lumens means a brighter light; fewer lumens, a dimmer light.

Careful shopping can save money on the monthly electric bill while giving your loved ones — and the neighborhood — a festive holiday display.

*Brian Sloboda is a senior program manager specializing in energy efficiency for the Cooperative Research Network, a service of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Additional content was provided by E Source.*

## Co-op Notes.....

### Geothermal heating/cooling system — \$300 rebate

We have a \$300 rebate to help pay for the most efficient underground heating, cooling and hot water system available today. A radio-controlled switch is required on the unit and on your electric water heater of at least 40-gallon capacity. More than 250 of our members are using geothermal.

### Dual Fuel — \$300 rebate

If you install a new add-on electric heat pump with a fossil-fuel backup and have an electric water heater of at least 40-gallon capacity, you are eligible for a \$300 rebate. Radio-controlled switches are required to be installed on both the heat pump and the water heater. Please call your cooperative for details. More than 800 members are using Dual Fuel.

### Cool Returns — \$100 rebate

Are you having central air conditioning installed or a new electric heat pump with electric resistance heat back-up? Allow your cooperative to install a radio-controlled switch and receive a \$100 rebate check. More than 100 members are using Cool Returns.

### Radio-controlled switch

“What a deal!” If you don't already have a radio-controlled switch for your electric water heater, at least 40-gallon capacity, please call and Tim Fisher will install one.....FREE. More than 5,300 G-M members have an RCS on their water heaters. This entitles you to a discount and free maintenance (except cleaning) including parts and labor on your electric water heater. Some exclusions apply; call us for details.