

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

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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.
First 2,000 kWh/month .465¢/kWh
Next 13,000 kWh/month .419¢/kWh
Over 15,000 kWh/month .363¢/kWh

The Big Yellow Tag

If you've taken a long walk or Sunday drive recently and glanced over at a GMEC electric pole, you may have noticed something: a big yellow tag installed on the side of the pole. These tags were attached in 2010 as part of our system-wide inventory designed to identify all of the co-op's poles and equipment. The tags are vertical which helps to distinguish them from the horizontal pole numbers that AEP uses. But, there is some very interesting technology involved here as well. When this inventory was conducted, the location of each pole, meter and device was electronically recorded using a global positioning system (GPS). This information enables employees to view electronic maps of the co-op's lines and service territory on office computers or in company vehicles. With this data installed on Garmins, trucks can be guided directly to poles that are often difficult to locate in very remote areas. This is especially helpful at night when poles can be difficult to see from the road.



Jerry Kackley
General Manager/CEO

As with all new tools, we are still learning how to use this technology to its full potential. While it can offer great assistance to employees, it is no substitute for their knowledge of our service territory and their years of experience; we will always rely on that. This electronic information can help us manage outages, catalog pole replacements, track right-of-way clearing and much more. The inventory also identified all attachments that cable companies and phone companies may have on our poles. This helps to assure that we are billing these companies properly for their annual attachment rentals which provides more than \$200,000 per year in revenue to the cooperative. We are excited about the potential of the GPS data and we will work to utilize this information to help us do our jobs better.

So, if you see a red-headed (slightly gray) guy sitting in a white car along a remote country road, looking lost or confused, stop and give me directions; I may have lost signal with my Garmin while out looking at co-op lines. And, when you see those big yellow tags, remember the rest of the story about why they are there.



Merry Christmas and best wishes for a happy new year from the board of directors and employees of Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Cooperative holiday hours

Office closed: Christmas Eve, Monday, Dec. 24
Office closed: Christmas Day, Tuesday, Dec. 25
Office closed: New Year's Day, Tuesday, Jan. 1

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) **Washington Youth Tour**. You can find more information, including rules and applications about all of these opportunities at our website, www.gmenergy.com or call Heather Baker at 800-521-9879.



Touchstone Energy® Achievement Scholarship

Tell us about it; you
may win a scholarship!

Four **\$1,750**
OREC Scholarships will be awarded

Two Guernsey-Muskingum Electric
scholarships will be awarded:
First Place \$500
Second Place \$300

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

You must be a graduating
high school senior whose parents
are members of a
Touchstone Energy®
Ohio Rural Electric Cooperative.

For information, contact:

www.gmenergy.com

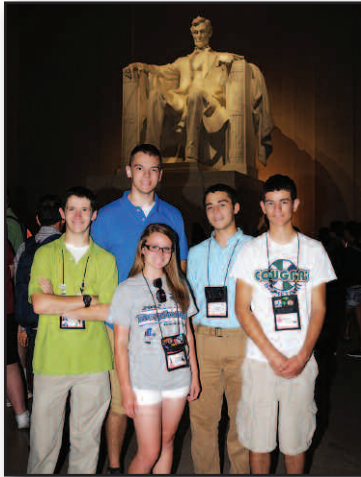
Heather Baker

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 and get a chance to meet and talk to Ohio congressional leaders at the U.S. Capitol, plus you'll get to see all of the sights and visit a bunch of really cool places.



June 14-20

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 or call Heather Baker at 1-800-521-9879. Application deadline will be Friday, March 8. All qualified applicants will be interviewed on Wednesday, March 20.

High School Seniors

Are your parents members of an electric cooperative?

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

Contact Guernsey-Muskingum EC for details on how you can enter

\$3,000*

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

OREC Scholarship

Second place:\$2,060

Third place:\$1,750

Fourth place:\$1,650

Fifth place:\$1,545

Sixth place:\$1,440

Seventh place:\$1,340

Guernsey-Muskingum Scholarship

First place:\$1,000

Second place:\$500

Third place:\$300

Fourth place:\$200

For information, contact: www.gmenergy.com

Heather Baker

740-826-7661 or 800-521-9879



Deck the halls with cost-saving, energy-efficient lighting

When one goes out, they all go out, right?

Wrong, if you use light-emitting diodes (LEDs) to do your holiday decorating. These hardy, energy-saving lights are guaranteed to give you one less thing to worry about so you can better focus on the joys of the season. Why are LED holiday lights better than traditional bulbs? Let me tell you why.

LEDs are now on par with traditional bulbs. Gone are the days when LED holiday lights were known for a harsh white light or stark colors that created a less-than-magical atmosphere. These days, LEDs come in warm, inviting colors in variety of light beam patterns and dimming speeds, giving you lots of creative options for decorating.



Holiday LEDs boast numerous benefits, including a variety of vibrant colors and big electric bill savings over traditional incandescent bulbs. *Source: General Electric*

LEDs last longer than traditional lights. In fact, they have an operational life span of about 20,000 hours, enough to last for 40 holiday seasons. Also, the lights don't have glass or filaments, which makes them durable and resistant to breaking. And be-

cause LEDs bulbs are so strong, one individual outage generally doesn't darken the whole strand. For those enthusiastic decorators who like to blanket their entire house and yard in holiday lights, LEDs could save hours of painstaking work each year.

LEDs use less energy, which means less strain on your first winter electric bill. Running LEDs on one 6-ft. Christmas tree for 12 hours per day for 40 days can save 90 percent or more energy when compared to traditional incandescent lights.

Because they use less energy, LEDs make it safer to connect multiple strands end-to-end without overloading the wall socket. Also, they're cool to the touch, reducing the risk of fire.

Look for brands and manufacturers of ENERGY STAR-qualified LED decorative light strings at www.energystar.gov.



*Ray Crock,
Energy Advisor*

Source: EnergyStar.gov

Discover the value of co-op membership and save

As a card carrying member, you can use you Co-op Connections Card or key fob at any participating business and you could receive discounts on prescriptions, dental appointments, chiropractic care, vision services, hearing aids and lab work.

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.

- #35-0119-22-02Troy M Hawthorne
- #37-0436-04-00John P Fenton
- #40-0117-14-18Chris Allison
- #42-0031-22-05Jean A Gilcher
- #45-0474-04-00Brent A Peeper
- #48-0008-08-07Joseph A Underwood
- #56-0475-16-00Arthur R Hursey
- #65-0101-32-01Ronald G Bloch



Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Did you know a computer can draw as much electricity as a new refrigerator? Turn it off when not in use or switch on its energy-saving mode. Also, cell phone and mp3 player chargers as well as plasma TVs and entertainment centers pull power even when they're off. Unplug these and other appliances to save on your electric bill. Find more ways to save at TogetherWeSave.com

Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives