

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 @ 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

When the lights came on

Your cooperative is going to be having its **75th Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 14** at the Larry Miller Intermediate School in New Concord.

Under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Rural Electric Administration (REA) was formed to encourage rural electrification by lending money at low-interest rates to any group or company that would undertake the challenge of delivering electricity to the scattered farmers of rural America.

In the 1930s electricity was common, as long as you lived in the city — 90 percent of city folk had lights. The countryside was still dark as only 10 percent of country folks had lights. One part of the nation lived in light, the other in darkness. Electrifying the countryside was considered too costly because the homes were too far apart and farmers would not use much electricity.

On April 4, 1938, a group of rural electric supporters met in New Concord and voted to incorporate. The name they gave the association... Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative, Inc. That was the first meeting, and there have been 73 Annual Meetings since. April 14's meeting will be the 75th.

On April 14, your cooperative would like to recognize members who remember "The Day The Lights Came On." If you lived in a home, served by Guernsey-Muskingum when the home first received electricity, we would like to hear from you.

Please call the office at 800-521-9879 to have your name added to the roster of "original" REA members. On April 14, "original" REA members will receive a small gift, along with their own certificate of remembrance. No fear, you will not be asked to speak and tell your story, although a few may share.



Because of World War II, the Rural Electric effort was slowed until post-war. Many of the "original" REA members were connected in the late '40s.

2012 Reconnect Fee adjustments

Effective Jan. 1, the fee charged for disconnection or reconnection of electric service resulting from nonpayment of bills, required deposits or other fees will increase to \$40 when disconnection or reconnection occurs between 7:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. during normal workdays.

Reconnection between the hours of 2 and 9 p.m. on normal workdays will result in a fee of \$145.

Reconnects between the hours of 9 p.m. and 7:30 a.m. on normal workdays and anytime on weekends or holidays will result in a reconnection fee of \$300. Reconnects during this time should only occur due to medical necessity or other emergency situations.

The reason for these changes is to more closely recover the cooperative's actual costs in reconnecting such accounts.

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, 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 2

**Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives
Four \$1,700 Scholarships**

**Guernsey-Muskingum Electric
First Place \$500
Second Place \$300**

For further information, contact:

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

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 the Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc., and your local electric cooperative that gives deserving high school sophomores and juniors like you the opportunity to use your knowledge and wit to compete for a FREE week-long 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.



YOUTH TOUR 2012
JUNE 15 TO 21

facebook.com/ohioyouthtour

WHAT ARE THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS?

You must be a high school sophomore or junior, and your parents or legal guardian must be members of an Ohio electric cooperative. Selected students should be energetic and eager to make the most out of this fun opportunity to learn.

HOW WILL THE FINALISTS BE CHOSEN?

Interested students should contact Heather Baker at Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative for the rules and judging criteria to be a part of this year's Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. Heather can be reached at hbaker@gmenergy.com or by calling 826-7661.

WANTED!

Rising energy costs have caused your electric cooperative's load management program to be more important than ever. Guernsey-Muskingum is looking for old-style load management switches that need to be updated with more advanced equipment.

Load management devices generally are located near main panel/breaker boxes, above or beside water heaters.

If you have an old-style load management switch, Guernsey-Muskingum needs to replace/upgrade it with a new one — which is more reliable and includes peak control indicator lights. To report an old-style switch, please contact member services at 800-521-9879 during normal working hours. When you report your old-style switch, Guernsey-Muskingum member services representatives will schedule an appointment to upgrade.



REWARD

If you schedule to replace your old-style load management switch before April 1, you'll receive a \$10 bill credit.

Call 800-521-9879

Debunking energy myths

Interested in saving energy to lower your electric bill, but confused about new technology and information available to help you do so? Separate fact from fiction with the following energy-saving myths.

Myth 1: It takes less energy to have my thermostat maintain a comfortable temperature while I'm away than it does to have it heat up or cool down my house when I get home.

If you're going to be gone for more than a few hours, then it is more cost-effective to turn heat or air conditioning on once you return than it is to maintain a comfortable temperature while you're out.

ENERGY STAR, a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy, recommends adjusting your thermostat up in the summer and down in the winter by 8 degrees Fahrenheit while you're asleep or away from your house.

Myth 2: I can save money simply by installing a programmable thermostat.

On their own, programmable thermostats do not make your heating or cooling system more efficient. Their money-saving value lies in their ability to, once properly programmed, automatically regulate the temperature inside your house to coincide with

when you're there and when you're not. If you need help programming your thermostat, directions are usually available from the manufacturer's website.

Myth 3: When I turn off electronics (like my TV, game console or computer) they stop drawing power from the outlet.

Even when turned off, most modern electronics consume a small amount of electricity if they're still plugged in. Chargers for mobile devices also consume electricity if plugged in, even when they are not actively charging the device. This wasted energy, called "phantom load," accounts for as much as 10 percent of a home's total electric use, according to the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. The solution: unplug your electronics when you've finished using them. Using a power strip can help you conveniently unplug multiple devices at once, while newer, "smart" power strips can automatically cut off phantom loads on their own.



*Ray Crock,
Energy Advisor*

Holiday Workshop

GMEC hosted its 13th Annual Holiday Workshop on Nov. 2. The 78 attendees were able to get the basics of couponing from Amber and Kim Zifzal, made their own holiday bows with the help of Kim Spillman and did some stamping with Tami Black of Stampin' Up. They also enjoyed entertainment by Tiffany Beck and holiday refreshments.



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.

- #15-0289-40-00Daniel L. Sylvester
- #18-0557-13-00Gary Schmidt
- #20-0371-40-00Daniel G. Dunfee
- #31-0261-11-03Gary D. Neptune
- #36-0038-07-02Scott A. Ruby
- #43-0715-47-02Carol J. Taylor
- #57-0022-88-01Kenneth Bear
- #68-0194-67-02Esther Lashley