



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



# currently Speaking

## Local Information

**GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**

17 S. LIBERTY ST., NEW CONCORD, OH 43762

www.gmenergy.com e-mail: mailbox@gmenergy.com

### Board of Directors

Duane Parks .....Chairman  
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 Jay Gray .....Director  
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### Electric rates

Farm and Home Service  
 rate schedule R-1  
 Service Availability Charge

First 500 kWh/month @ \$15/month  
 @ 11.619¢/ kWh  
 Over 500 kWh/month @ 9.495¢/ kWh

Seasonal Residential Service  
 annual rate schedule S-1  
 Service Availability Charge

First 800 kWh/year @ \$180/year  
 @ 19.619¢/ kWh  
 Over 800 to 6,000 kWh/year @ 10.495¢/ kWh  
 Over 6,000 kWh/year @ 9.495¢/ kWh

(Your minimum annual charge will be \$180 per year for service between March 1, 2010, and Feb. 28, 2011.)

Commercial Service  
 rate schedule C-1  
 Service Availability Charge

First 1,500 kWh/month @ \$15/month  
 @ 11.619¢/ kWh  
 Over 1,500 kWh/month @ 9.495¢/ 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

## Muskingum County ARRA Baseload Audit Energy Cost Reduction Program

The Muskingum Economic Opportunity Action Group Inc. (MEOAG Inc.) Energy Cost Reduction Program (ECRP) is a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and was signed into law by President Barack Obama on Feb. 17, 2009.

The purpose of the ECRP program is to assist Muskingum County income-eligible residents in reducing their electric bill by installing energy-efficient measures in their home at no charge to the customer. Income must be at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

Some of the measures include using energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs, wrapping electric water heaters, insulating pipes and testing refrigerators and freezers for energy consumption. High-use refrigerators and freezers may be replaced at no charge, provided they meet state guidelines. A detailed survey will be taken to show customers what each appliance is contributing to their electric bill and provide suggestions that customers can apply to help further reduce their energy costs.

To qualify for the program, the customer must live in Muskingum County and have been in their current residence for at least one year. Proof of income for total household must be provided. For more information on this program, call Matt Page at 740-454-1310 ext. 119.



**Happy Mother's Day  
 from Guernsey-Muskingum  
 Electric Cooperative.**

### Office hours changing

#### Summer hours

Beginning Tuesday, June 1, 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.

**New Concord**  
 740-826-7661

(24-hour service)

**All other members**  
 1-800-521-9879

Guernsey-Muskingum local information

# From the tailgate:

## Avoid outdoor electrical hazards at home and at work

The arrival of spring brings warmer weather and an increase in outdoor work, both on the job and at home. Increasing electrical safety awareness can help ensure those activities do not result in injuries and deaths, according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI). ESFI notes that following these safety rules can reduce electrical deaths and injuries:

- Ladders that contact a power line can prove fatal, even if the ladder is made of wood.
- Unplug outdoor tools and appliances when not in use.
- Inspect power tools and appliances for frayed cords, broken plugs and cracked or broken housing and repair or replace damaged items.
- Water does not mix with electricity. Avoid damp conditions, including wet grass, when using electricity.

### Power line safety

ESFI also encourages those on the job to look up, look down and look out for electrical safety hazards. On average, 325 people die and 4,400 are injured each year because of electrical hazards, according to data published by the National Safety Council. Electricity ranks sixth among causes of occupational fatalities. The leading cause of fatal electrical incidents while on the job is contact with power lines, both above and below ground.

Workers using ladder or scaffolds, and those carrying aluminum siding, poles, fencing and even lumber, need to be aware and stay clear of power lines. Such contacts caused approximately 22 percent of the work-related fatalities over a seven-year period, according to research ("Occupational Electrical Injuries in the U.S., 1992-1998," published in the *Journal of Safety Research*).

Eliminating power line contacts with equipment such as cranes, boom trucks and dump trucks could reduce workplace electrical fatalities by another 17 percent annually, the study suggests.

The study also notes that construction workers, who make up approximately 7 percent of the U.S. workforce, suffer 44 percent of the electrical fatalities. Electrical safety experts suggest that the best insulator to keep workers safe from electricity is to stay at least 10 feet away from power lines.

### Electrical safety in the home

For most people, the home is a place where friends and family can come together, rest and relax. However, if electrical appliances are not maintained or used properly, this safe haven can be diminished in a matter of seconds.

Electrical appliances within the home are part of our everyday life—from the toaster, heaters, hair curler, blow dryer, microwave, television and stereo. If these appliances are not maintained, stored or used properly, they can pose a serious safety hazard. Here are some safety precautions for electrical appliances in the home:

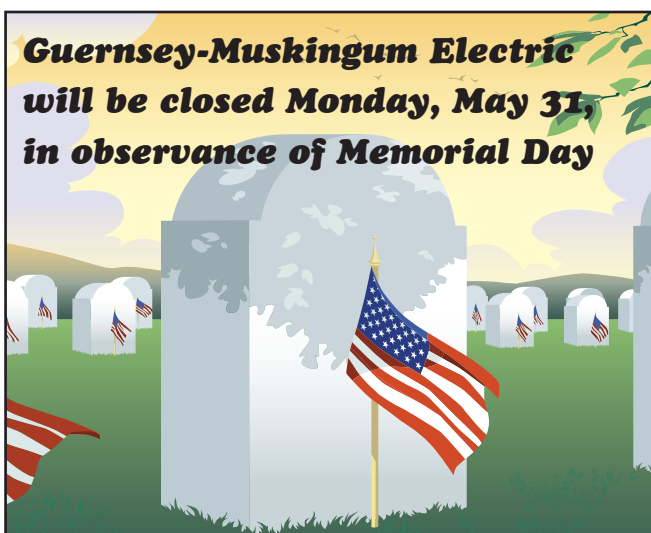
- Electrical appliances should not be used around water.
- When carrying appliances, they should be held by the handle, not the cord.
- Appliances that get hot, such as heaters, toasters and light bulbs, should be kept away from materials that can burn.
- Small appliances should be turned off or unplugged when not in use.
- If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker or has given you a shock, unplug it and have the appliance repaired or replaced.

Electrical appliances also can be found outside of the home. Appliances are used outside for cutting the lawn, trimming bushes and flower and cutting tree limbs. Appliances that are used for yard work should be labeled for outdoor use. Here are some tips for practicing safety precautions when working with electrical appliances outside of the home:

- Unplug electrical tools and disconnect spark plug wires on gasoline-powered tools before making adjustments or clearing jams near moving parts.
  - Be sure power tools are turned off and made inoperable, if they must be left unattended, to prevent use by children.
  - Be sure that extension cords are in good condition, are rated for outdoor use and are the proper gauge for the electrical current capacity of the tool.
- Have a great spring, but keep safe.



Garry Mbiad,  
General Manager/CEO



# Scholarship Day

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.

On Scholarship Day, Feb. 20, applicants participated in interviews judged by two teams of judges. Judges for the girls' division were Dr. Steve Kokovich, professor of education, Muskingum College; Kari Hitzel, administrative assistant, WB Green Insurance; and Dorothy Montgomery, retired Muskingum County commissioner. Judges for the boys' division were Jack Taylor, retired chief executive officer, Southeastern Ohio Medical Center; Marcy Frederick, real estate consultant, Lepi & Associates; and Dr. Howard Beazel, psychologist.

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 community room of the cooperative.

Winner in the girls' division was **McKenzie Huston**, the daughter of Bill and Kris Huston of Dresden and Stephen and Linda Huston Moore of Nashport. McKenzie attends Tri-Valley High School. She is president of the National Honor Society, served as secretary and vice president of her class and is a member of student council. McKenzie is also vice president of the Muskingum County Community Youth Foundation and a member of the Muskingum County Junior Fair Board. McKenzie plans to study chemical engineering.

Winner in the boys' division was **Caleb Shuey**, the

son of Carl and Carol Shuey of Zanesville, Ohio. Caleb attends West Muskingum High School. He is a member of the National Honor Society and is the captain of the swim team at WMHS. Caleb is also president of the Muskingum County Community Youth Foundation and is active in his youth group at church. Caleb plans to study art.

McKenzie and Caleb will represent Guernsey-Muskingum on May 10 in a statewide competition at Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives Inc., in Columbus, competing for two \$2,755 scholarships.

Second-place winner in the girls' division was **Marie McGinnis**, who attends Tri-Valley High School and is the daughter of George and Rosemary McGinnis of Frazeytsburg; and second-place winner in the boys' division was **Levi Dosch**, who attends West Muskingum High School and is the son of Mike Dosch of Hopewell and Lori Beardsley of Zanesville.

Third-place winner in the girls' division was **Brandi Bahmer**, who attends Barnesville High School and is the daughter of Greg and Angie Bahmer of Barnesville; and, third-place winner in the boys' division was **Ryan Ziegler**, who attends John Glenn High School and is the son of Gary and Deborah Lyons of Cambridge.

Fourth-place winner in the girls' division was **Taylor Bugglin**, who attends John Glenn High School and is the daughter of John and Tracy Bugglin of New Concord; and, fourth-place winner in the boys' division was **Doug Burris**, who attends Cambridge High School and is the son of Jeff and Susan Burris of Cambridge.

*This year 21 students from nine high schools competed for the awards. The seniors participating were:*

## Barnesville

Brandi Bahmer\*\*

## Buckeye Trail

Eric Burga

Kiki Cunningham

## Cambridge

Doug Burris

Jessica Gilcher\*\*

Sarah Herman

## John Glenn

Taylor Bugglin

Sarah Dailey

Kaitlyn Smith

Ryan Ziegler

## Maysville

Kody Fulkerson

MaLisa Spring

\*Denotes student attending Mid-East Career & Technology Center

\*\*Denotes student participating in Post-Secondary Education Program

## Meadowbrook

Candace Neff

Madison West\*

## Philo

Danielle Vineyard

## Tri-Valley

McKenzie Huston

Marie McGinnis

Breeze Patterson

## West Muskingum

Brandi Dosch

Levi Dosch

Caleb Shuey\*\*



*McKenzi Huston*



*Galeb Shuey*



*Marie McGinnis*



*Levi Dosch*



*Brandi Bahmer*



*Ryan Ziegler*



*Taylor Bugglin*



*Doug Burris*

## Ask your Energy Advisor

# How much is too much?

Learn how to estimate your home appliances' energy use to see if it's time for an upgrade

You've had your fridge forever. With the exception of some crumbling parts of the seal, it's in pretty good shape and keeps your food cool. Why worry about budgeting for an upgrade?

Some homeowners forget the impact inefficient appliances have on a home's monthly power bill. Replacing a refrigerator made before 1993 with a new, ENERGY STAR®-rated model could knock between \$65 and \$100 off your electricity bill each year. This leaves consumers with a question when evaluating older appliances: how much energy use is too much? To estimate the energy use of an appliance, use this formula:

Wattage x Hours used per day x Days used per year ÷ 1,000 = Kilowatt-hours (kWh) used annually

For example:

Standard, large-screen television (214 Watts)

214 Watts x 4 hours per day x 365 days

per year ÷ 1000 = 312 kWh

Then calculate the annual cost to use an appliance by multiplying the kWh per year by the electric cooperative's rate per kWh used:

312 kWh x \$0.118 (the national average from Energy Information Administration) = \$36.82 per year

In contrast, an ENERGY STAR-rated standard, large-screen TV (151.5 Watts) costs \$25 (this uses the 0.118 rate) to power annually.

You can usually find the wattage of most appliances stamped on the bottom or back of the appliance, or on its nameplate. The wattage listed is the maximum power drawn by the appliance. Since some appliances have a range of settings (i.e. hairdryers), the actual amount of power consumed depends on the setting used at any one time.

Here are examples of the range of wattages for com-

mon household appliances:

- Clothes washer: 350–500 Watts
- Clothes dryer: 1,800–5,000 Watts
- Dishwasher: 1,200–2,400 Watts (heat-drying feature increases energy use)
- Hair dryer: 1,200–1,875 Watts
- Microwave oven: 750–1,100 Watts
- Refrigerator (frost-free, 16 cubic feet): 725 Watts

Once you calculate how much money you spend to run aging home appliances, compare this to what it would cost to use more efficient models. With federal incentives bringing down the price of an ENERGY STAR-rated refrigerator or clothes washer, the annual energy savings could be worth an upfront investment. There are other benefits

too. For example, not only have clothes washers become 64 percent more energy efficient since 2000—the tub size also increased by 9 percent. With a new model you can wash more clothes for less money every month!

Don't want the hassle of adding up the potential savings? Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives' Web site, [www.TogetherWeSave.com](http://www.TogetherWeSave.com), demonstrates how small changes like replacing an appliance or unplugging electronics lead to big energy savings. On the Web site under "Add Up Your Savings," you can walk through a typical home's kitchen, living room and other common areas. Upgrade appliances and make other energy-smart choices in each room. Each time you make a change, you're shown how much money you could save on your annual electric bill!

Ready for an upgrade? Remember, incentives are available to help you make an energy-efficient switch. For Ohio-specific details on how you can take advantage of the federal "Cash for Appliances" program, with rebates ranging from \$50 to \$250, visit [www.energysavers.gov/rebates](http://www.energysavers.gov/rebates). Details on other state and local utility rebates are available at [www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org).

Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy; U.S. Energy Information Administration; Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers; Natural Resources Defense Council; U.S. Energy Information Administration



Ray Crock, Energy Advisor



### Are your name and location/account number here?

If they are, 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.

- #18-0683-07-01 .....Carl A Mick Jr
- #21-0367-01-01 .....Raymond E Wofter
- #27-0094-27-00 .....Larry Warne
- #35-0372-24-01 .....Terry Alan Wilson
- #39-0166-43-00 .....David E Linn
- #44-0186-15-00 .....Jimmy Sharrock
- #52-0425-08-00 .....Russell L Singleton
- #55-0184-22-01 .....Clara I Benedict

Guernsey-Maskingum local information