

# 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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**Garry Mbiad** ....General Manager/CEO

## Electric Rates

### Farm and Home Service rate schedule R-1

Service Availability Charge

\$17/month

First 500 kWh/month

@ 12.369¢/kWh

Over 500 kWh/month

@ 10.245¢/kWh

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

Service Availability Charge

\$204/year

First 800 kWh/year

@ 20.369¢/kWh

Over 800 to 6,000 kWh/year

@ 11.245¢/kWh

Over 6,000 kWh/year

@ 10.245¢/kWh

(Your minimum annual charge will be \$204 per year for service between March 1, 2012, and Feb. 29, 2013.)

### Commercial Service rate schedule C-1

Service Availability Charge

\$17/month

First 1,500 kWh/month

@ 12.369¢/kWh

Over 1,500 kWh/month

@ 10.245¢/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

## Cooperative not involved with power marketing offers

Recent ads have been urging Ohioans to change their wholesale electric providers with promises of savings on monthly electric bills.

That offer isn't open to all Ohioans.

Members of Ohio's electric cooperatives, such as Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative, are not eligible to change wholesale providers. The reason for this is as old as the cooperatives themselves.

"Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative was formed to provide safe, reliable and affordable electric power for our members on a not-for-profit basis. This remains our core mission," General Manager Garry Mbiad said. "When the Ohio General Assembly made market-based rates an option more than a decade ago, we went through a careful analysis and found there would be more risk than benefit for our members and could heap major costs on the cooperative. Cooperative members own their power supply and control their future."

The offers being touted by power marketers involve only part of the cost of a consumer's electric bill — the generation portion or about half of a typical monthly bill. Consumers will still be served by the same distribution company and pay that company for the costs associated with bringing electricity across the transmission lines and through the wires into their homes and businesses.

Ohio's cooperatives control their wholesale power supply through ownership of Buckeye Power, a Columbus-based generation-and-transmission cooperative. For years, cooperative members have enjoyed lower rates than the market because of this ownership position. As owners, we have shared in any earnings that Buckeye Power made also.

Buckeye Power has recently completed a period where more than \$1 billion has been invested at its generation sites to keep it in compliance with Environmental Protection Agency rules and regulations. This has led to increases in wholesale power rates for co-op members in recent years, including an increase scheduled for this July.

"The reasons for the increases have been communicated regularly with co-op members," Mbiad said. "Just as we are completing this environmental work, many companies across the country are just getting started and will be playing catch-up or closing plants. Now that Buckeye has completed this work, our members should expect a relatively long period of stable prices again.

"It's taken more than a decade and a downturn in the economy for market-based rates to become a viable alternative for customers of Ohio's investor-owned utilities," Mbiad added. "And for those who do switch, many are finding there are fees and charges associated with changing providers that offset much of the savings."

A long period of stability may not be the case for the market-based rates the power marketing companies have been touting.

"Market-based rates can be quite volatile," Mbiad said. "Watching the price at the corner gas station can demonstrate how volatile a market can be, and with electricity, a commodity that can't be stored, for-profit prices can reach breathtaking levels, as we have seen on the open market on hot summer days.

"Through our ownership of Buckeye Power, Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative is able to provide a reliable source of electricity at a stable price and we are in a position to do that for years to come."



## County Fairs In Our Area

Harrison County.....	Cadiz .....	July 3-7
Perry County.....	New Lexington.....	July 16-21
Hartford Fair (Licking County).....	Croton.....	August 5-11
Muskingum County.....	Zanesville.....	August 12-18
Noble County.....	Caldwell.....	Aug. 27-Sept. 1
Morgan County.....	McConnelsville.....	Sept. 4-8
Guernsey County.....	Old Washington.....	Sept. 10-16
Tuscarawas County.....	Dover.....	Sept. 17-23
Coshocton County.....	Coshocton.....	Sept. 28-Oct. 4

Fair dates can be found by logging onto <http://www.ohiofairs.org/>

### Third Annual Farm Science Review Bus Trip

**Wednesday, Sept. 19**

Yes, I/we would like to join our co-op and ride in a Muskingum Coach Tour Bus to the Farm Science Review at London.

**Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seats at \$25 each.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Please make check payable to GMEC.

#### **DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE TRAFFIC, LEAVE THE DRIVING TO US!**

Your ticket covers the bus trip to and from the Review, plus a light breakfast and your ticket to the Farm Science Review.

Bus departs Cambridge at 6 a.m.,  
and Zanesville at 6:30 a.m.

**Mail or return to:**

**Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
17 S Liberty St, New Concord, Ohio 43762**

For more information, call member services at 1-800-521-9879.

I will board the bus at



**CAMBRIDGE**

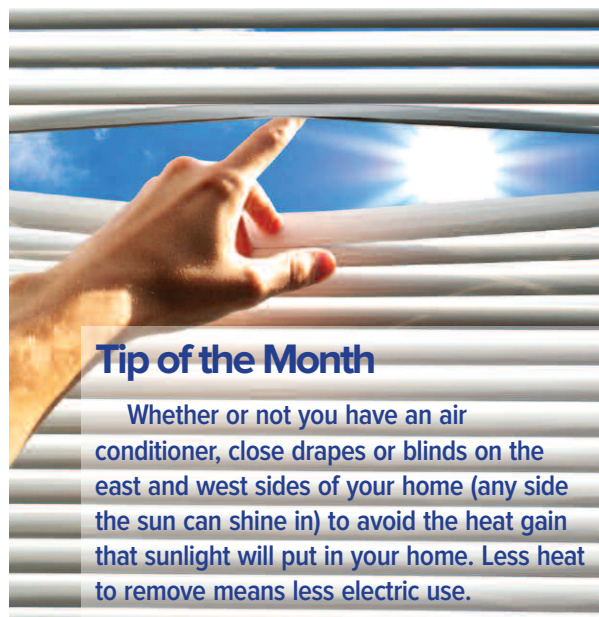


**ZANESVILLE**

## 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 January 2012 bill. Since that time, it has been at the 7.50 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 7.95 cents per kilowatt-hour, effective with the July bill, which you will receive around Aug. 10.

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



### Tip of the Month

Whether or not you have an air conditioner, close drapes or blinds on the east and west sides of your home (any side the sun can shine in) to avoid the heat gain that sunlight will put in your home. Less heat to remove means less electric use.

### Office hours

On Wednesday, July 4th, the Guernsey-Muskingum office will be closed so our employees may enjoy the holiday.

The office will resume normal hours on Thursday.

*We wish you a safe and happy holiday!*

## Budget billing plans available

Do your electric bills go up and down with the changing seasons? Would you prefer to pay approximately the same amount each month? If so, Guernsey-Muskingum may have a budget billing plan for you.

The cooperative offers two budget billing plans: the **fixed budget** and the **levelized budget**.

### Fixed budget

Under the fixed budget plan, the cooperative estimates your monthly use based upon a 12-month average. This average is then used to calculate the bill that you will pay over the next 12-month period. Members typically pay the same amount every month. This amount may be adjusted periodically by the Member Accounting department to prevent either a large positive or negative balance from accumulating on the account.

### Levelized budget

The levelized budget does not result in exactly the same budget payment each month. The cooperative

adds the current month's consumption to the previous eleven months' use and an average monthly kilowatt-hour figure is determined. This amount is used to calculate the budget billing amount for the month. This means that the budget amount is actually adjusted monthly, but usually remains within a few dollars of the previous month's budget. As with the fixed budget, the levelized budget amount may need to be adjusted periodically to prevent a large positive or negative balance from accumulating. The levelized budget can only be offered for accounts that have 12 months of billing history.

The benefit of both budget plans is to minimize or eliminate large swings in your bill that can be caused by the change of the seasons. If either of these budget plans appeals to you, and your billing account is current, just call the Member Accounting department at 740-826-7661 or 1-800-521-9879 and ask to be placed on budget billing. To remain on either budget plan, the budget amount billed must be paid in full each month.

*One phone call is all it takes...*

## Cardinal Plant Tour

If you are interested in touring a power plant that generates electricity, please call Guernsey-Muskingum's member services department today at 1-800-521-9879.

You, a cooperative member, are one of the owners of the Cardinal Generating Station in Brilliant, Ohio, and this will be a chance to see it in operation.

The arrangements are being made for **Wednesday, Sept. 12**. A bus ride and tour will be provided.

**Seats will be reserved for G-M members who have not taken the tour in the past. Please call, as seats are limited, and will be filled on a "first-call/first-served" basis.**

Please be aware that if a situation were to occur where a security warning was issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the tour may be canceled. If you have any questions, please call your cooperative.

Please, be our guests, but don't delay!



**ASK YOUR ENERGY ADVISOR**



Ray Crock,  
Energy Advisor

# Renters have the power to save electricity

If you rent your home, it often seems that you can't do much to control your electric bills. But in reality, there are lots of low- or no-cost tricks that you can put into place to cut down on electricity use.

"Usually leases forbid renters to make alterations to a structure, so your energy-saving solutions have to be simple," says Brian Sloboda, a senior program manager specializing in energy efficiency with the

Cooperative Research Network.

### Electronics and appliances

The notion that regularly powering down your computer will shorten its life is outdated. Nowadays, computers tend to become outdated themselves before frequent shutdowns cause any damage. The U.S. Department of Energy consumer website, EnergySavers.gov, offers this guideline: If you won't use your computer for more than 20 minutes, shut off the monitor; if you won't use it for more than two hours, shut the whole thing down.

However, there is a caveat: If your computer takes its time waking up, your own time might be worth more than the electricity you save.

Most electronics feature a glowing light when turned off — that means they're still drawing electricity. A quick fix for this "vampire," or phantom, load involves plugging various devices into a power strip. Simply flip the switch on the power strip when you won't be using the devices.

While your hands are most likely tied when it comes to the types of major appliances installed, if one needs to be replaced, lobby your landlord to purchase an ENERGY STAR model. Visit energystar.gov for more information on particular products.

### Weatherizing

A roll of weatherstripping and a tube of caulk can go a long way in saving energy and money. Check for gaps around doors and windows. Can you see daylight? If so, ask your landlord if you can seal cracks and reduce air flow.

The Air Sealing section on EnergySavers.gov offers tips on the right types of weatherstripping and caulk for your residence. While you're talking to your landlord, ask if he or she will pay the cost if you do the labor.

Look to your windows for additional savings. Of course, you probably can't replace them, but if they're drafty in the winter, try sealing kits you can purchase at any home improvement store. These plastic sheets fit over your window to block drafts. Curtains can also help — close them in the summer to block sunlight, and open them in the winter to let the warmth in.

### Useful tips

A few more simple tips can help shave your electric bills:

- When light bulbs burn out, replace them with compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). If they have an ENERGY STAR label, these bulbs typically last up to 10 times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs and use 75 percent less electricity.
- Use your vacuum to clean coils in the bottom panel of your refrigerator. Never figured out where those coils are? Search "Together We Save refrigerator coils" on YouTube to watch a video.
- Similarly, keep your dryer vents clean. Clogged refrigerator coils and dryer vents will cause your appliances to work harder and increase the risk of fire.
- Don't allow furniture to block air vents, and shut the vents in rooms you don't use.
- Check the temperature on your water heater. These devices don't need to be set at more than 120 degrees Fahrenheit for daily showers and chores.

### Call your co-op

When you're trying to save energy and money, it's good to know you're not alone. Call Guernsey-Muskingum at 740-826-7661 for more information.

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy (EnergySavers.gov), Cooperative Research Network

### 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.

- #12-0782-23-00 .....John D. Moulton
- #17-0214-05-00 .....Robert L Glosser Sr.
- #21-0181-45-00 .....Carlos R Evans
- #25-0038-22-01.....Jerry Downey
- #28-0284-08-00.....Richard W. Knicely
- #32-0211-02-00 .....Dale Green
- #33-0255-12-00.....William Metcalf III
- #72-0206-21-01 .....Virginia Gay