



MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

JOB PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS

How many of you are employees of a company and can't wait till your next evaluation comes around? Unless you think there's a nice bonus or pay raise tied to it, it's probably not high on your priority list for the year. Here at Guernsey-Muskingum, we actually look forward to our yearly evaluation by our membership and the comparison to our peers in the industry. Every year in the spring, GMEC will authorize a national firm to conduct a survey of a sample of our membership to see what you, the member-owner, think of our performance in the last twelve months.

An independent third party will collect the data, and they don't reveal the names of surveyed members to us unless you have particular questions or comments that you wish for us to respond to. Survey information is shared with the board of directors every year. When we get the report (a few months after the survey is complete), we will address questions for the staff.

Of course, if you have concerns that need addressed right away, please call us directly. We have set up a process to address any negative experiences of our members and we have task forces in multiple subject areas to see how we might improve here at GMEC.

I don't want to leave you with a false hope that all your wishes will be met, but you should know that all your ideas and concerns will be given serious deliberation. The staff here knows that I believe addressing our membership's concerns with honest but fair responses is what makes us strong. We all want cheaper rates, no interruptions in power supply, and a person to talk to when we do have a problem. We will continue to search for how we can better serve you in these areas and more.



Brian Hill
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Please take the time to complete the survey. It may be done online or by phone. Even if you don't complete the survey, you can call and tell me your thoughts at any time. You also have seven directors on the board who want to hear your ideas on how we might better serve you. We must never be afraid to ask, "How are we doing?" Sometimes, issues with your service are out of our control, but you have every right to ask us why, and we will be glad to respond.





Ray Crock

The phantom of the house Part II

Like awaiting the sequel to a great movie, I am sure all of you readers have been on the edge of your seats, waiting for me to write part II of my earlier article about

phantom load. Or maybe you didn't read it at all and wonder what I'm talking about! Two months ago, I wrote an article about phantom load. To refresh your memory, phantom load (also called vampire load or standby power) is the electricity that some electronics draw even when we think they aren't being used. This usually happens with appliances that can be programmed or that have a remote control. In part I, I discussed televisions and attached electronics found in entertainment centers. This electric load has increased a lot over the last couple decades as we've added more TVs to the home and added more peripherals, like game consoles or DVRs.

In this article, I will discuss some other items that contribute to the phantom load. One item that few households had 20 years ago was an internet router and Wi-Fi. I placed a meter on mine out of curiosity. It uses 12.5 watts, all of the time. That adds up to almost 10 kWh per month, or \$1.20. Not a lot, but add it to computers in sleep mode, printers and scanners in standby, cordless phones, answering machines, and cellphone charging, and the use adds up. Even our large appliances get in on the vampire load now. Since we can now set the clothes dryer to start at a different time or keep the load fluffed, set the washer to start at 5 a.m. and program the oven to start at 2 p.m., we have added convenience at a cost. These appliances use 5 to 10 watts all of the time, just to be "smart." And for the few of you that have smart homes ... I'm not even going there in this article.

Some of the more obvious standby loads include:

- Cell phone charger (charged) 0.8–4.1 watts
- Computer display (sleep) 0.4–7.8 watts
- Desktop computer (sleep) 2–83 watts
- Notebook computer (on, charged) 15–73 watts
- Notebook computer (sleep) 1–55 watts
- Fax machine 3–14 watts
- Multi-function device (ink jet) 3.9–17.7 watts
- Multi-function device (laser) 5–175 watts
- Cordless phone with answering machine 2.2–7.5 watts
- Programmable washer or dryer 4–6 watts
- Computer speakers (on, no sound) 0.7–9.9 watts
- Clock 1–4 watts
- Microwave 1.4–5 watts

But did you know these items also draw electricity, even when not turned on?

- Cell phone charger 1 watt
- Desktop computer (turned off) 9.2 watts
- Furnace 9–10 watts
- Air conditioner 1 watt
- Coffee maker 3 watts
- Surge protector 5–7 watts

If you are curious as to how much your phantom load is costing in your house, do your best to add up the total watts of items I have discussed in these two articles. Then plug that number into this equation:

$$(\text{total watts}/1,000 \text{ watts}) \times 744 \text{ hours}$$

Multiply your answer by \$0.12 per kilowatt-hour

So, if you have 300 watts of phantom load (typical), then:

$$300/1000 \times 744 = 223 \text{ kWh}$$

$$223 \text{ kWh} \times \$0.12 = \$26.76 \text{ per month}$$

There are no great answers to reducing phantom load. I share this information to make you aware — education is power! I personally choose to just accept my phantom load and pay my electric bill to get the conveniences I've mentioned here. You might choose to invest in a smart power strip that turns off after a certain amount of time of detecting standby power. You could also purchase a kill-a-watt electric consumption meter to measure items and make decisions Or, you can choose to unplug the darn things when not in use. The choice is yours.

Charity softball game



It's a well-established fact that when an electric cooperative sends out a call for help, its sister co-ops show up to meet the need — whether it's extra linemen to restore power after a major storm, providing backup equipment in an emergency, or simply sharing ideas and information. This type of cooperation is more than just a nicety — it's one of the guiding principles that distinguishes cooperatives from other types of businesses.

But that doesn't mean cooperatives are immune from a little bit of rivalry, especially if there's a good cause behind it. Washington Electric Cooperative (WEC) linemen challenged Guernsey-Muskingum Electric

Cooperative (GMEC) linemen to a softball game to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The game took place at Razor's Field in Byesville with WEC securing the win with a score of 20-11. But the charities emerged as the day's real winners: GMEC raised \$2,000 for Make-A-Wish, while WEC raised \$1,860 for St. Jude.

"Everyone pitched in to make a wish come true," says Guernsey-Muskingum Lineman Louis DeLorenzo. "Next year we hope to make more wishes come true."

We're looking forward to making this an annual event!

TIPS TO AVOID SCAMS

Scammers can threaten you with everything from shutting off power to your home to legal action. Don't fall victim to these types of scams.

Here are a few reminders from your electric co-op.

- Co-op employees will never show up at your door to demand payment.
- Never give personal information to an unknown caller or visitor. Co-op representatives have access to the details they need to service your account.
- Demands for immediate payment by wire transfer, cryptocurrency, gift cards, or cash reload cards should immediately raise red flags.
- If you think you've been contacted by a scammer falsely representing the co-op, please let us know as soon as possible.





What is Operation Helping Others?

There are over 5,000 GMEC members signed up to participate in Operation Helping Others (OHO). If you are one of those members, thank you! If you are not familiar with OHO, here is an overview of the program.

OHO is a voluntary program that rounds up your electric bill to the next dollar and uses the change as a donation. OHO is not a program to pay Guernsey-Muskingum electric bills. Funding comes entirely from members who voluntarily participate. The small change donated by members makes a big difference in our communities. For example, the OHO

committee would put Willie Wiredhand's 56 cents in with all of the spare change donated by other members and decide how best to use those funds in our communities. Every penny raised by your donations to OHO goes toward funding needs in our community. The OHO committee consists of one appointed volunteer from each district. In 2019, your OHO committee granted **\$28,249.67** to be distributed to needy causes in our community. On the next page is a list of OHO recipients for 2019.

SAMPLE

WILLIE WIREDHAND'S ELECTRIC BILL	\$73.44
WILLIE ROUNDS UP HIS BILL AND PAYS	\$74.00
DONATION	\$0.56



OHO grant amount	OHO mtg. date	Location of recipient	Recipient need
\$1,000	Feb. 25	Cambridge Township, Guernsey County	Donation
\$1,000	Feb. 25	Adams Township, Guernsey County	Donation
\$1,000	Feb. 25	New Concord, Ohio	Donation
\$1,000	Feb. 25	Guernsey/Muskingum County, Ohio	Donation
\$5,000	May 20	Muskingum County	Donation, Camp Ohio Improvements
\$2,500	May 20	Union Township, Muskingum County	Handicap van repairs
\$2,500	May 20	Hopewell Township, Muskingum County	House fire recovery
\$741.70	Aug. 26	Springfield Township, Muskingum County	Living expenses
\$2,500	Aug. 26	Oxford Township, Guernsey County	Medical expenses
\$886.67	Aug. 26	Brush Creek Township, Muskingum County	Home repairs
\$2,500	Aug. 26	Muskingum County, Ohio	Operating expenses
\$1,615.15	Dec. 3	Oxford Township, Guernsey County	Home repairs
\$506.15	Dec. 3	Clay Township, Muskingum County	Car repairs
\$500	Dec. 3	Tuscarawas County, Ohio	Christmas donation
\$500	Dec. 3	Guernsey County, Ohio	Christmas donation
\$500	Dec. 3	Guernsey County, Ohio	Christmas donation
\$500	Dec. 3	Zanesville, Ohio	Christmas donation
\$500	Dec. 3	Guernsey County, Ohio	Christmas donation
\$500	Dec. 3	Guernsey/Muskingum County, Ohio	Christmas donation
\$500	Dec. 3	Noble County, Ohio	Christmas donation
\$500	Dec. 3	Zanesville, Ohio	Christmas donation
\$500	Dec. 3	Muskingum County, Ohio	Christmas donation
\$500	Dec. 3	Muskingum County, Ohio	Christmas donation
\$500	Dec. 3	Guernsey County, Ohio	Christmas donation



CO-OP NEWS

Geothermal heating and 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. To be eligible, the geothermal unit must be ENERGY STAR-rated and have a radio-controlled switch installed on the unit and on the electric water heater of at least 40-gallon capacity. Over 280 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 must be installed on both the heat pump and water heater. Please call your cooperative for details. Over 890 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 backup? Allow your cooperative to install a radio-controlled switch and receive a \$100 rebate check. Over 170 members are using Cool Returns.

ENERGY STAR refrigerator/freezer rebate

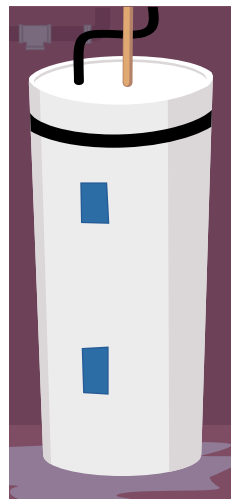
Did you buy a new ENERGY STAR refrigerator or freezer? We may have a \$100 rebate for you. Call member services for details.

Water heater with a hole

The 4-inch hole in the side of our tank is great for cleaning out sediment. This rebated tank is available for free delivery. We also have \$50 or \$100 checks to send you if you purchase a tank somewhere else. Give us a call for details.

Water heater installation available

If you purchase your water heater from GMEC, our member services technician, Tim Fisher, may be able to install your water heater for an additional charge. Give us a call for details.



Radio-controlled switch

What a deal! If you don't already have a radio-controlled switch (RCS) for your electric water heater of at least 40-gallon capacity, please call, and Tim Fisher will install one at no charge. Over 5,600 GMEC members have an RCS on their water heaters. The switch 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.

GenerLink

We want you to use your portable generator safely. Call the member services department at GMEC and ask about GenerLink. GenerLink eliminates the use of extension cords and other connections that can be dangerous to members and linemen. Over 200 members currently have a GenerLink installed at their homes.



Meter reading

You can enter your meter readings online at our website, www.gmenergy.com. You can also mail your readings or call us 24 hours a day with meter readings.

Co-op Connections card

The Co-op Connections card is free to all GMEC members, and one card can be used by the entire family. The card can be used to receive discounts nationwide on lodging, entertainment, dining, and more. Visit www.gmenergy.com and click on the link to explore the possible discounts available to you.

HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS:

Interested in a life-changing leadership experience in Washington, D.C.?

June 19–25, 2020

While on Youth Tour, you'll visit:

United States Capitol
World War II Memorial
Jefferson Memorial
Smithsonian Institution
Lincoln Memorial
Vietnam War Memorial
Korean War Memorial
Washington National Cathedral
Arlington National Cemetery
Gettysburg Battlefield
... and much more!



OHIO'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

What is Youth Tour?

The Ohio's Electric Cooperatives Youth Tour is an annual leadership program sponsored by Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative. It's a weeklong, all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., that gives exceptional high school students the opportunity to meet with their congressional leaders at the U.S. Capitol, make new friends from across the state and country, and see many of the famous Washington, D.C., sights.

Electric cooperatives from 43 states will send about 1,800 delegates this year. Will you be one of them?

To apply for the Youth Tour ...

Successful applicants:

- Must be a high school sophomore or junior.
- Must be a son, daughter, or legal ward of a GMEC member living on the cooperative's lines and receiving electric service from the cooperative at the time of selection.
- Must submit an application along with grade transcripts indicating cumulative credit hours and grade-point average.
- Must submit a letter of recommendation from a guidance counselor, principal, teacher, or community or organization advisor.

Applicants will be required to take a test consisting of true/false and short essay questions about electric cooperatives.

Applicants will receive the information necessary to study for the test when their application is received.

For more information and to apply, visit www.gmenergy.com or call 800-521-9879.

Application deadline: Friday, March 6, 2020

Interviews: Wednesday, March 18





GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CURRENTLY SPEAKING

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Are you using your fireplace efficiently? Remember to turn down the thermostat when burning a fire and close the damper when a fire is not burning.

Source: energy.gov



Rate revisions

No one likes rate revisions. Your board realizes the financial pressure those of us in southeastern Ohio experience but also realizes our obligation to provide you with reliable electric service.

The service availability charge, which currently is \$22 per month, will not change. Service availability affects what the cooperative does locally — billing, tree-trimming, setting poles, and more. Wholesale power costs and high-voltage transmission costs are recovered separately through the generation and transmission component (GTC).

The GTC, which recovers the costs of generating and transmitting power to a substation, to be used by cooperative members, will increase by 2 mils or \$2 per 1,000 kWh. This revision will be effective with the Feb. 10 billing.

Our goal is to hold the line on rates as long as possible. Although the cooperative has passed on increases in the past, we have been fortunate to be able to handle most of the rising cost by selling more kilowatt-hours. In December 2019, a residential bill for 1,000 kWh was \$141.72. In September 2012, the same 1,000 kWh was \$141.72. Seven years — that is rate stability!

GMEC is committed to delivering electricity to you at the lowest possible cost and minimizing the impact of any rate increases. We regret the need to increase rates at this time; however, it is necessary to allow us to continue to improve our programs to maintain reliable electric service to our membership.

Is your name and account number here?

If it is, call the cooperative's office and receive a **FREE** home change-out to LED lightbulbs (limit six bulbs). Thanks for reading the local pages of *Ohio Cooperative Living* magazine.

#31-0258-02-04.....David Higginbotham	#36-0422-15-01.....Dale A Lyons
#51-0923-80-05.....Brent N Williams	#56-0007-40-01.....Brad D Dobson
#15-0030-40-00.....D F Garner	
#13-0064-43-04.....Nancy S Cameron	



GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

CONTACT

800-521-9879 | www.gmenergy.com

OFFICE

17 S. Liberty St.
New Concord, OH 43762

OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

ELECTRIC RATES

Farm and Home Service rate schedule R-1*
Service Availability Charge — \$22/mo.
First 500 kWh/month — 12.369¢/kWh
Over 500 kWh/month — 11.045¢/kWh

Seasonal Residential Service rate schedule S-1*
Service Availability Charge — \$360/yr.
First 800 kWh/yr. — 19.969¢/kWh
800 to 6,000 kWh/yr. — \$10.845¢/kWh
Over 6,000 kWh/yr. — 11.045¢/kWh
(Minimum annual charge — \$360/yr. for service between March 1, 2019, and Feb. 28, 2020)

Commercial Service rate schedule C-1*
Service Availability Charge — \$24/mo.
First 1,500 kWh/mo. — 12.769¢/kWh
Over 1,500 kWh/mo. — 11.045¢/kWh

*Rider T — Kilowatt-Hour Tax applies to all rate schedules and must be added to the rates shown.

First 2,000 kWh/mo. — 0.465¢/kWh
Next 13,000 kWh/mo. — 0.419¢/kWh
Over 15,000 kWh/mo. — 0.363¢/kWh

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