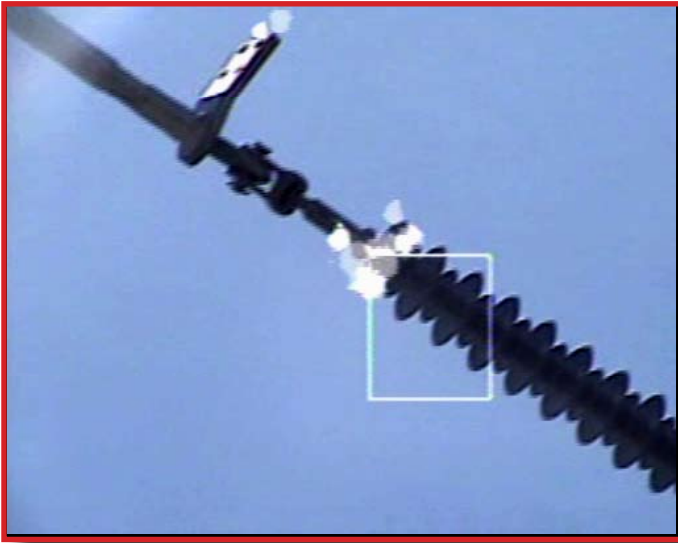


# Resourcefulness enhances reliability and the bottom line



The bright spot at the corner of the box is the ultraviolet light that indicates a targeted maintenance area.

**T**he goal of LCEC's extensive preventive maintenance program is to identify and address any issues with electrical equipment before they cause outages. Each year, LCEC performs infrared inspections of power lines and substations to locate "hot spots" on the system. Recently, LCEC completed another method of preventive maintenance on the transmission system: corona testing. While infrared inspections measure heat emitted from electrical equipment, corona testing identifies ultraviolet light emitted from electrical equipment. Corona can shorten the service-life of electrical insulating systems, seriously interfere with high-voltage system operation and communication links, and result in failure and loss of equipment.

Typically, a subcontractor is utilized to perform annual corona tests, but this year LCEC completed the testing in-house and realized a substantial cost savings. A specialized corona camera was rented to test approximately 90 percent of the transmission system that was comprised of polymer insulators. A few areas of concern were identified, and LCEC crews are now working to address the issues before they cause outages.

# Every time you flip a switch the electric system works

LCEC customers are part of the company that distributes electricity to nearly 200,000 Southwest Floridians, but do you know exactly how that happens? The complex network that puts electricity where it needs to be — and does it quicker than you can say LCEC — is just like the parts of a car engine that work together to get you from point A to point B.

## 1. THE POWER PLANT

The most common types of electrical generation plants use coal, natural gas, oil, falling water or nuclear energy to produce electricity. But garbage and other waste products can also be burned to produce electrical energy, and generators can harness wind or solar power. Total output has to rise and fall to meet the total demands on the electric system, and a combination of types of generating units are used to match the demand. LCEC does not generate power, and our power supplier has a diverse portfolio of power resources.

## 2. TRANSMISSION SUBSTATION

Transmission substations link various size voltage lines and include equipment used to increase reliability. High-voltage power travels out of the station to areas of need. Transformers within the station are used to reduce voltage for power traveling to distribution substations.

## 3. TRANSMISSION LINES

Power travels from the plant on high-voltage transmission lines to a transmission substation in our area. High voltage lines are more efficient for transmitting power. Raising the voltage lowers the current, which results in less power loss.

## 4. DISTRIBUTION SUBSTATION

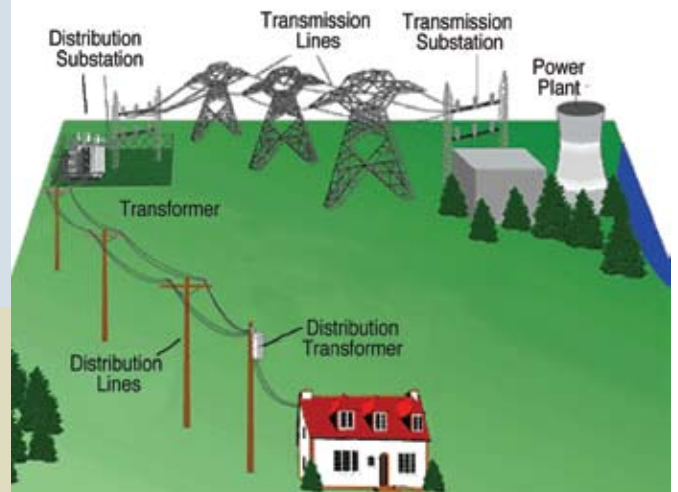
At distribution substations, electrical voltage is lowered ("stepped down") for customer use. Additionally, to enhance reliability, protective devices and switchgear are located in the substation.

## 5. DISTRIBUTION LINES

Electricity leaves the substation on a distribution line and travels to a field transformer where voltage is reduced for commercial areas and even further for residential use.

## 6. DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMER

The field transformer is where the final step-down takes place. It is often located on a utility pole or on a pad at ground level. The transformer decreases the voltage to 120 or 240 volts which is used in most homes.



# Many ways to pay

**LCEC offers many convenient ways to pay your electric bill that can save you time and money.**

For more details on LCEC's payment options, enrollment eligibility and much more, log on to [www.lcec.net](http://www.lcec.net).

## Auto Pay -

Save your stamp and pay your bill economically by having your electric payment automatically deducted from your checking account 10 days after the billing date. Residential and commercial customers are eligible.



## Pay by Phone -

Pay your bill over the phone anytime, from anywhere. Call the automated response system at (239) 656-2300 or (800) 599-2356. Please allow two business days for the payment to post to your LCEC account.\*



## Pay Online -

Visit the Web Self Service section of [www.lcec.net](http://www.lcec.net) to view/pay your electric bill safely and securely.



## U.S. Mail -

Mail your payment in the envelope enclosed with your bill.

## Drop off -

LCEC has several convenient payment locations. These locations and information on acceptable forms of payment can be found at [www.lcec.net](http://www.lcec.net).

\*Funds must be drawn from US banks only.



**Where you live...**  
*It's the United Way*

## 2007 United Way Campaign up and running

In 2006, LCEC raised over \$100,000 for United Way with the "Where there's a YOU, there's a Way" campaign. This amazing campaign was a success due to the hard work, dedication and creativity of employees and the support from LCEC's board of trustees! This year, LCEC employees are actively working to increase this phenomenal figure by 10 percent with the 2007 "Give where you live...It's the United Way" campaign.

The 2007 campaign is not just up and running; it's sprinting! So far this year, LCEC has held a fishing tournament, jewelry sale, used CDs/books/baked goods sale and more! LCEC employees are now gearing up to organize and participate in even more events to raise funds for the United Way!

LCEC is one of Lee County's top companies in raising funds for United Way. Employees always focus a great amount of energy on the annual United Way campaign because the funds raised help those in need right here in Southwest Florida.



## Electric consumption to increase

According to a study performed by the Energy Information Administration (EIA), electricity consumption is projected to increase 1.8 percent per year until 2025.

If electric customers take steps to conserve electricity now, they can help conserve precious natural resources and delay the need to build more power lines and electric substations.

According to the EIA study, the most rapid increase in energy demand is projected for electricity used to power computers, office equipment, telecommunications and miscellaneous small appliances. You can ensure your appliances are energy-efficient by purchasing products with the Energy Star label. Energy Star products significantly exceed the minimum national efficiency standards.

In addition, heating and cooling costs comprise 50-60 percent of the electric usage in Southwest Florida. Customers can conserve by setting thermostats no lower than 78 degrees in the summer, and no higher than 68 degrees during the winter months. For more information on how customers can conserve electricity, visit [www.lcec.net](http://www.lcec.net).

### BOARD MEETING

LCEC Board meetings are typically held the third Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at the North Fort Myers office (4980 Bayline Drive).

## Looking for an exciting and rewarding job with great benefits?

Join the LCEC Team! To get detailed information on available LCEC positions, visit our Web site at [www.lcec.net](http://www.lcec.net). LCEC is an equal opportunity employer.



### CUSTOMER SURVEY WINNER

If you receive an LCEC customer survey in the mail, return it for a chance to win \$50. June's winner was Darrell Ayers of North Fort Myers.

## LCEC takes honors at FPRA Golden Image Awards Competition

LCEC received three awards from the Florida Public Relations Association (FPRA). The awards were announced at the 2007 Golden Image Awards Gala on August 7, at the Ritz-Carlton, Sarasota.

The statewide competition honors outstanding public relations programs, printed tools and audio/visual tools produced by local public relations professionals.

LCEC was presented with a Golden Image Award and a Judges' Award for the Ride the Wave event, which was aimed at educating employees about a new mobile workforce software initiative.

A Golden Image award is given to the top scoring entry in each category, and a Judges' Award is given to an outstanding entry that achieves maximum results while using a minimum amount of money.

LCEC was also honored with an Award of Distinction in the audio/visual category for the Monday Blast, LCEC's employee e-newsletter.

The Florida Public Relations Association is one of the nation's oldest societies of public relations professionals. Founded in 1938, FPRA unites more than 1,500 men and women in the common cause of promoting the public relations profession.