

# Reliability remains on target

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LCEC customers have experienced very good reliability so far this year. Each year, LCEC works toward improving electric system reliability. Although no system can be 100 percent outage-proof, diligent maintenance plans, proactive inspections and quick response helps to minimize the

impact on customers.

LCEC maintenance plans include infrastructure such as transmission lines, substations, distribution lines and protective devices as well as vegetation management. Inspection of facilities is conducted through aerial inspections, physical inspections, testing and the use of technology. In addition,

# More than \$203 million returned to customers



LCEC is proud to have returned more than \$203 million in equity to members over the years. The LCEC Board of Trustees recently approved a second quarter distribution of \$5 million in equity to current and inactive customers, and an additional distribution of \$7.5 million to memberships that have been closed since 2005.

After all operating expenses, LCEC allocates excess revenues to customers as equity, based on the amount of electricity they used during the previous year. Equity is not equivalent to cash. It is an investment in the system and is in the form of substations, poles, lines, transformers and other facilities. This customer investment allows LCEC to make improvements to the system without the need for costly loans. When the financial position is sufficient, a portion of equity is distributed to customers.

LCEC is proud of the financial strength that has allowed for a return to customers. Only half of the electric cooperatives in the United States are able to return equity.

## TRUSTEE ELECTION RESULTS ANNOUNCED

In April, LCEC held its annual meeting and announced results for the 2013 Trustee Election. Four Trustees ran unopposed and received more than the required number of votes to be reelected. Trustees are members and bona fide residents of the geographic district they represent. Trustee duties include, but are not limited to, approving plans for an adequate, reliable supply of power at the most competitive rate possible; protecting assets and ensuring compliance with lending requirements; reviewing an independent annual audit; approving annual budgets and action related to margins and equity; representing the interests, concerns and needs of members; and attendance at regular Board and committee meetings.

Chief Executive Officer Dennie Hamilton and Board President Larry Turbeville both made brief presentations at the annual meeting to give an overview of 2012 accomplishments and plans for 2013.

For more information about LCEC, visit [www.lcec.net](http://www.lcec.net).



## Does your bill seem higher than usual?

**There are several reasons your bill might increase. Rest assured it is not because LCEC has raised electric rates.**

For the fifth year in a row, LCEC customers have not seen a rate increase. Employees and the leadership team are dedicated to managing costs and operating efficiently. If your bills have increased, it could be due to:

**WEATHER:** Lowering the temperature in your home when it gets hot and humid will cause your air conditioner to work harder and your electric meter to spin. Using electric heat when it is cold is twice as expensive as using the air conditioner.

**VISITORS:** The more people in your home, the more electricity you use. This is typically because hot water usage increases but it can also be related to cooking and added electronic and appliance use.

**BILLING CYCLE:** Your meter is read every month, but timing varies slightly due to weekends and holidays. The number of days in your billing cycle can range from 25 to 35. Your usage may remain consistent but your bill could vary due to the number of billing days.

If you would like a copy of the 2012 annual report, please contact the Public Relations Department.

Email: [pr@lcec.net](mailto:pr@lcec.net) or call (239) 656-2202.



The number one energy-saving tip is to have an energy audit done on your home. You can rely on LCEC energy advisors or conduct your own survey at [www.lcec.net](http://www.lcec.net). However, many DIY homeowners like the idea of having the power to save. LCEC energy saving ideas for energy-efficient landscaping can help reduce your energy bills today!

## Do-it-yourself ENERGY TIPS and TRICKS

### LANDSCAPING

- Plant leafy trees on the south and east sides of your home to provide cooling shade.
- Vines can provide shading on walls and in front of windows.
- Ground cover has a cooling effect as compared to asphalt, gravel or rocks.
- Plant wind-breaking evergreen trees on the north and west sides to reduce heating costs.
- Look up before planting. Don't plant under the power lines.

# Plug into safety

Every year incidents involving electrical equipment such as extension cords, receptacles, and light bulbs result in fires that claim lives and cause injuries. Using electric cords and outlets safely can protect you and your loved ones from becoming a statistic.

- Never run an extension cord under a rug.
- An extension cord is not part of your home's electrical system. Only use temporarily.
- Replace old and damaged cords.
- Make sure the cords you buy are approved by an independent testing laboratory.
- Never overload an extension cord. If necessary, upgrade to a higher-rated cord.
- Receptacles are inexpensive. Replace them if they are broken, no longer hold a plug securely, feel hot to the touch, spark or make noise.
- Replace broken faceplates to avoid touching a plug to a live portion of the receptacle.
- Never alter a three-pronged plug to make it fit into a two-pronged receptacle.
- Do not use a multi-plug adapter for extended periods of time.



### LCEC KILLA-WATTS ENERGIZE DONORS

The United Way of Lee, Hendry & Glades hosted a thank you event at Zoomer's, and the crowd was treated to familiar tunes played by the LCEC homegrown band, the Killa-Watts.

### SOARING WITH THE EAGLES



LCEC employees showed their support for the FGCU men's basketball team by wearing the university colors. We are proud that FGCU alumni, students and professors are also LCEC employees, board members and interns!



### LCEC POWER PAC RUN CLUB GOING STRONG!

LCEC employees, friends and family continue to participate in races around the region. The goal of the club is to encourage and support a healthy lifestyle and have fun while doing it!!

## National electrical SAFETY month

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and LCEC is joining with the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) to raise awareness about potential home electrical hazards and the importance of electrical safety.

In the United States, home electrical failures or malfunctions cause more than 50,000 fires each year, resulting in 450 deaths, nearly 1,500 injuries, and over \$1.5 billion in property damage, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Fire is not the only danger. Thousands are electrocuted annually in their homes. To help reduce the risk of fire and electrocution, there are advances in technology for your home.



**Arc Fault Circuit Interrupter (AFCI)** – A circuit breaker that recognizes fire hazards and immediately interrupts the flow of power.



**Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI)** – Special outlets that detect ground faults or leakage currents and shuts off the power.



**Tamper-resistant receptacles (TRR)** – Receptacles that feature an internal shutter mechanism to prevent small children from inserting foreign objects.

For more information about electrical safety, visit [www.electrical-safety.org](http://www.electrical-safety.org).

**BOARD MEETINGS:** 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). Monthly meeting agendas are available online two days prior to the meeting. Call 239-656-2267 for more information.

**CUSTOMER SURVEY WINNER** – If you receive an LCEC customer survey in the mail, return it for a chance to win \$50. February's winner was Betty Heansler of Chokoloskee.

LCEC is a nonprofit corporation. Established in 1940, LCEC delivers power to more than 199,900 customers. LCEC News is published monthly for customers by the Public Relations Department,  
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