

## Understand the taxes and fees on your electric bill

**LCEC has not raised electric rates for nearly five years!!** This has been accomplished through fiscal responsibility, process improvements and strategic use of technology. However, you may notice there are charges on your bill that aren't related to electricity. Not all customers pay these additional fees/taxes, but they are becoming more and more common as legislators utilize them to generate revenues.

**Public Service Tax** – Tax on utilities. Utilities are required to collect the tax through utility bills, and funds are delivered to local government. (7% in Cape Coral, 8% in Everglades City)

**Gross Receipts Tax** – A tax on the sale, delivery or transportation of gas or electricity. Collected funds are delivered to State government. (2.5% in Florida)

**Franchise Fee** – A fee paid through an agreement to allow use of public easements for location of power facilities such as wires crossing the road or poles along roadways. Funds are delivered to local governments. (3% in Cape Coral, 3% on Sanibel, 3% in Everglades City)\*

\*Lee County Commissioners are considering a fee for Lehigh Acres, North Fort Myers, Pine Island and Captiva Island



When you compare your monthly expenses and consider the benefits, it's obvious that electricity is a good value! Your quality of life depends on power, and that's why LCEC employees work so hard to keep rates as low as possible. Process improvement, ongoing maintenance and fiscal responsibility are just a few of the ways we focus on the bottom line.

**Compare the cost of essentials (two people):**

**Power for your home for a month ... \$137**  
*Based on 1,200 kWh usage*

**Monthly Automobile payment..... \$321**  
*Edmonds.com*

**Average monthly food bill..... \$556**  
*Bureau of Labor Statistics*

**Apparel, services, personal care..... \$222**  
*IRS National Standards*

## TRUSTEE ELECTION – what you need to know

Any member who is a resident of the district that is up for election can apply to be considered by the Nominating Committee. All applications are considered. Each year there are at least three seats up for election. Terms are staggered to provide continuity on the Board.

**Potential qualifications for nominated candidates:**

- Business experience
- Ability to interpret operating and financial reports
- Community leadership
- Sensitivity to member concerns, attitudes and issues
- Integrity and minimal possibility for conflict of interest
- Capability to contribute to Board discussion and decisions



**Seats up for election in 2014**

- District 4–Lehigh Acres
- District 5 Seat 1–North Fort Myers
- District 5 Seat 2–North Fort Myers

If you would like to be considered for a position on the Board of Trustees, contact LCEC Public Relations, 239-656-2202 or pr@lcec.net.

Applications accepted from November 8, 2013 , through January 3, 2014.



## Renewable Energy

Interest in renewable energy has grown over the years. Although LCEC does not generate power, it is important that our power supplier has a diversified portfolio, and renewable energy should be in the mix. It's good for the environment, is sustainable, creates jobs and helps the economy!

FPL, LCEC's wholesale power supplier, is pioneering efforts to develop renewable energy sources for customers. It has constructed and commissioned three solar power plants that create clean energy throughout the state. In addition, FPL's parent company, NextEra Energy, has a solid track record as the leading generator of renewable energy in the United States.

## LCEC Donates Materials to Collier Reef Project



Last month, LCEC partnered with the Collier County Artificial Reef organization to deliver scrap materials that will help reduce the cost of the project. The program is in full swing, and this delivery was just the first of many donations to be made by LCEC at the Collier County Landfill.

Collier County received BP Grant funds, and the City of Marco Island and the City of Naples began accepting clean materials for use in the deployment of the 36 artificial reefs. Conservative estimates are that these reefs are expected to boost tourism by nearly \$35 million dollars.

## Nominating Committee named next month

The LCEC Nominating Committee, independent from the Board of Trustees, comprises of LCEC members charged with interviewing and objectively evaluating applicants interested in serving on the LCEC Board of Trustees. As members of the cooperative, committee members are charged with exercising due diligence and great care to ensure the nomination process is carried out thoroughly and with the utmost integrity. The Committee strives to conduct a fair and open process, to be conscientious of its responsibilities and to apply standards widely applicable to large corporations.



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). LCEC Energy Saving ideas for holiday lighting can also help reduce your energy bills today!

**Ways to decorate your home with lighting while paying attention to the energy being used.**

- Use solid-state LED holiday lights and strands which use about 99 percent less energy than the larger, traditional incandescent lights.
- LED lights last up to 100,000 hours, so you should pack them away carefully for next year.
- Timers are good on outdoor light displays. Keep them on for a set time period. You can quadruple your energy costs if you leave your holiday lights on all the time instead of just five or six hours.
- If you're lighting a Hanukkah menorah, a dimmer switch will let you enjoy the candles even more. By the eighth night of the holiday, in fact, you might not even need any electric lights.

# JUMPING FOR JOY!

The LCEC Golf tournament for United Way was a huge success, bringing in more than **\$35,000.** Employees, vendors, friends and families had a beautiful day on the course for a good cause!



## Three ways to save while cooking during the holidays!

1. Keep the oven door shut! 2. Cook multiple items in the oven at once. 3. Use the microwave as much as possible!

## LEADING THE WAY!



LCEC hosted the 2013 Cape Coral Leadership class in October. Attendees had the chance to experience the operations side of the business, visit the Customer Care Center and ask questions of the management team.



## it's a matter of life or death

LCEC employees are committed to working safely and getting and staying healthy. Safety practices are a way of life for employees who work in the field, and the safety message carries over to office employees also. A focus on wellness includes encouragement for regular health screenings, flu shots, fitness routines, smoking cessation and nutrition coaching.

Customers benefit from a safe and healthy workforce because it helps to keep operational costs down. Healthy employees equate to reduced absenteeism, lower medical claim costs and better job performance, which all impact the bottom line. Our people are our most vital asset, so keeping them well is beneficial for everyone!

**CUSTOMER SURVEY WINNER** – If you receive an LCEC customer survey in the mail, return it for a chance to win \$50. September's winner was Charles Klump of North Fort Myers.

**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 239-656-2300 for more information.

LCEC is a nonprofit corporation. Established in 1940, LCEC delivers power to more than 202,000 customers. LCEC News is published monthly for customers by the Public Relations Department, P.O. Box 3455, N. Ft. Myers, FL 33918-3455 (800) 599-2356 or 239-656-2300 • [www.lcec.net](http://www.lcec.net)

