



LCEC reliability exceeds target

LCEC employees successfully exceeded the reliability performance goal for 2013. A system-wide average for outages indicated that customers were without electricity for thirty-five minutes less than projected.

The improved performance is a result of years of planning and hard work. The LCEC business strategy includes a

coordinated maintenance and vegetation management program as well as use of technology, constant analysis and good response time.

Future plans will address areas that experienced higher-than-average service interruptions, and the 2014 goal is to improve further.

TRUSTEE ELECTION IN MARCH

LCEC members will receive a ballot for the annual Trustee election next month. Members are encouraged to exercise their right to vote. We continue to offer three convenient ways to vote: online, phone and mail. Help keep costs low by voting the green ways – online or by phone.

Characteristics of a qualified Board of Trustee candidate:

- Ability to represent the total membership on an impartial and equitable basis
- Capability of overseeing policies governing investment of LCEC funds
- Desire to keep LCEC rates competitive, service reliable and budgets reasonable
- Knowledge to protect LCEC assets and ensure compliance with lending institutions and governmental requirements
- Effective analytical, problem-solving and logic skills
- Independent thinking and strong business training
- Capacity to work as a strong-cohesive team member
- Integrity and earned respect from business and community members
- Awareness of key local issues
- Willingness to remain informed by studying data and other pertinent information

The Nominating Committee

The 10-person LCEC Nominating Committee, independent from the Board of Trustees, is made up of LCEC members charged with interviewing and objectively evaluating applicants interested in serving on the Board. Committee members exercise due diligence and great care to ensure the process is carried out with integrity. They are members themselves, and the focus is on evaluating applicants' ability to represent LCEC members' best interests in the business of the cooperative and avoidance of situations that may present a conflict of interest.

- Veronica Culbertson, At-Large
- Tom Hoolihan, North Fort Myers
- Dr. Jon R. Olliff, Lehigh Acres
- Lynn Criscione, Cape Coral
- Allan Parvey, North Fort Myers
- Paul Sanborn, Cape Coral
- Robert Thomas, Cape Coral
- Birgit P. Vertesch, Sanibel
- Larry Weber, Immokalee
- Craig Woodward, Marco Island

Trustee positions up for election in 2014 are:

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

2014 RATE DECREASE

Did you notice the rate decrease that was implemented last month? While many other utilities are raising rates, LCEC is proud that we have been able to reduce rates for our customers. The decrease is the result of hard work to transition to a new power supplier, diligent budgetary planning and execution, strategic process improvement and optimization of technology. Visit www.lcec.net for tips on how you can manage your usage to reduce your bill even further!

Living on the Wild Side

LCEC continually helps to support agencies that care for, and protect, the precious wildlife of Southwest Florida. Delivering the energy to sustain quality of life for our customers is our goal. Striking a delicate balance to maintain Mother Nature's gifts is also important.



Be sure to check out the 12th Annual Burrowing Owl Festival! Saturday, February 22, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Rotary Park, Cape Coral. Visit www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org



Stop in at the CROW Visitor Education Center sometime! For more info: <http://crowclinic.org/education/visitor-education-center/>

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

You are invited to attend the Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 17, 2014, at 8:30 a.m. at the LCEC Corporate office. Board President Larry Turbeville and Chief Executive Officer Dennie Hamilton will review 2013 accomplishments, and the trustee election results will be announced.



Pack-A-Sack for the Salvation Army Medical Unit

LCEC "elves" delivered Subway gift cards and backpacks filled with toiletries, socks and a fleece blanket to the men staying at the Salvation Army Medical Unit. The facility cares for homeless individuals who suffer from medical ailments and need continued care that they cannot otherwise afford. The gift cards surely made the season brighter for those who need it most!

Play it safe when working outdoors

Homeowners should pay special attention to safety when working around the yard. Here are a few tips to keep you safe.

- Periodically inspect your power tools for frayed cords, broken plugs, and cracked or broken housings, and repair or replace damaged tools.
- Take care not to cut the power cord when you work with power cutting tools like hedge clippers, chain saws and trimmers.
- Make sure the amperage rating for an extension cord is greater than or equal to, the tool you will be using. Check the rating by comparing the labels on both the cord and the tool.
- Try not to allow cords to become pinched in doors or windows; it could cut the insulation and expose bare wire.
- Never cut off the ground prong because you will eliminate an important protective barrier against possible shock.

Your safety is very important. Don't take the dangers of electricity lightly. Work safely.



Stop the blinking clocks



Blame it on the squirrels or tree limbs contacting your power lines—it could even be a rain shower. But no doubt you've experienced blinking clocks.

The power disturbances that cause your clocks to blink are caused by protective equipment that utilities install to prevent extended power outages. Whenever a problem is detected with LCEC's power lines, protective devices briefly shut off power to prevent an extended outage. These brief outages usually last only one to three seconds.

You can win the battle of the blinking clocks. Your strategy starts when you purchase electronic equipment. Before you buy items such as televisions, alarm clocks and microwaves, put them to the test in the store. Unplug them for a couple of seconds, then plug them back in to determine if they can keep the time. You can also consider buying a battery-backup.

Be Ready!



For many, this time of year is for setting goals and making new resolutions. Setting health goals is great, but being prepared in an emergency is vital to the health and safety of you and your loved ones.

- Start by having the conversation: whom to call, where to meet and what to pack in an emergency.
- Build your emergency supply kit over the first month or two of the year.
- Create a preparedness checklist. This should include things such as emergency phone numbers and copies of important documents.
- Set reminders throughout the year to talk about and update your family plan.
- And remember, older adults often have special needs in a disaster and may depend on medications or have other special requirements. If older adults are a part of your social connections, be sure to include them in your planning efforts.

Emergencies can and will happen, but being ready can minimize the impact they have on the overall well-being of you and your family.

QuickPay – fast and free

They aren't worrying about getting their electric bill paid on time. They utilized LCEC's QuickPay option!

Paying your bill online using a checking or savings account is FREE! It can post immediately to your LCEC account, and it's also an easy way to be green!

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.

CUSTOMER SURVEY WINNER If you receive an LCEC customer survey in the mail, return it for a chance to win \$50. December's winner was Beverly Suhs of Lehigh Acres.

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



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