



What makes your electric bill different each month?

Have you ever found yourself wondering why your electric bill may vary from month to month? There are many factors to consider:

Your Billing Cycle

Holidays and weekends can cause the number of days in your billing cycle to vary between 28 and 34 days.

Look for the average daily consumption to compare bills from month to month.

Your Schedule

You will notice a change in your electric bill when you are home more than normal, when your children are out of school for a holiday or the summer, or if you have out-of-town guests.

Your Electronics and Entertainment

The type and number of electronics you utilize greatly influence your energy usage. The more electronics you use, the more power you use.

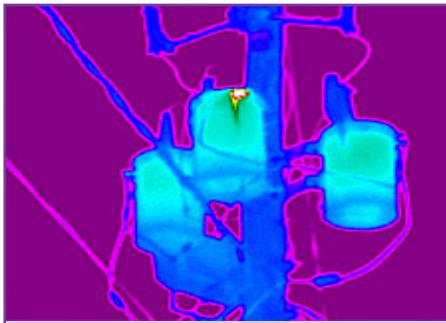
The Weather

Heat, cold, rain, cloud cover and humidity can affect your electric bill. It's a good idea to keep your blinds closed during the warmest part of the day in the summer and open for the sun to heat your home during the winter.

Your Habits

Your electrical usage habits directly affect your electric bill. Do you turn off the lights and ceiling fans when you leave a room? Do you turn the TV off when you're not watching it? Do you wash full loads of laundry in the clothes washer and full loads of dishes in the dishwasher? Do you turn your outside lights off during the day? Do you keep your house 78 degrees or warmer in the summer and 68 degrees or cooler in the winter?

Visit www.lcec.net for saving tips!



LCEC INFRARED INSPECTIONS: PROBLEMS AVOIDED

Each year, LCEC completes proactive searches for "hot spots" on electric facilities throughout the system.

Hot spots are areas where a connection on electrical equipment causes heat to be transmitted. During inspections, an infrared camera is used to scan system infrastructure. When the camera finds an area of concern, an analysis of the problem is completed. Infrared inspections allow LCEC to find problems and fix them before they cause outages. It is usually less expensive to fix an issue before it causes an outage.

Examples of the potential savings:

- **Cost to repair a bushing on a transformer before a failure: \$500.**
Cost to repair after failure: \$25,000.
- **Cost to repair a switch at the substation before failure: \$3,000.**
Cost to repair after failure: \$5,000.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

If you are a homeowner, you know that work around the house is endless. But did you know that it could be dangerous?

Florida's Underground Facility Damage Prevention Act, passed in 1993, created Sunshine State One Call, a system designed to help prevent line contacts of underground utilities that sometimes occur while people are working outside in their yard.

It only takes a tenth of a second to be shocked.

Before using garden tools such as a post-hole digger, homeowners are required by law to call Sunshine State One Call at 811 or 800-

432-4770 at least two days before digging. After you call, information about digging locations is entered into a computer to compare the location of underground utilities in the area. The area either will be declared clear or will be appropriately marked for any underground lines. Only after you make the call will you be safe to dig.

For more information, visit www.sunshine811.com



kilowATCH saves the day!

A customer recently wrote in to thank LCEC for offering the kiloWATCH functionality. While on vacation, the customer received an automated text about an unusual jump in energy usage at his home. He called a neighbor to check on the situation, and a faulty pool heater was found to be operating around the clock. Catching the situation right away saved the customer significantly on his electric bill.

Enroll in kiloWATCH. Check your daily usage and receive alerts when usage exceeds a self-determined threshold. It's free and helps to avoid monthly surprises when the electric bill arrives. Enroll at www.lcec.net.

With the cost of postage on the rise, customers are looking for ways to save on their monthly bills. LCEC's Auto Pay is the solution!

Many LCEC customers are already taking advantage of the automatic payment service that frees them from the mundane check-writing process and saves them almost half a dollar per month on stamps.

Paying your electric bill can be easy and convenient through the use of technology. Your payment can be automatically deducted from your bank account the day before the due date.

Postage went up again ... save money with Auto Pay



This service also ensures your bill is paid on time, even if you're away from home.

It's hassle-free. Each month your bill will state, "your payment will automatically be deducted" bank payment" and state the date it will be deducted from your bank account. This allows you to note the amount and date of the transaction in your personal records.

There's no cost for this service. LCEC pays the bank fee for automatic debiting of your account.

For more information or to sign up for Auto Pay, visit www.lcec.net.



Safe tree trimming

Keeping trees trimmed and away from power lines is vital to your safety and the safety of those around you. When a swaying tree branch makes contact with a power line, electricity can flow through the tree and into the ground. As a result, electric facilities could be damaged, a power outage could occur, or worse, you could be injured.

Trimming trees can be a dangerous task, though. Hiring a licensed tree trimmer is the best course of action. For the small jobs you take on yourself, review these safety tips from LCEC:

- Make sure you know the location of overhead power lines and stay clear of them when you trim.
- Use power tools safely, and check your tools before using them to make sure they're in proper working condition.
- Remove branches with care, especially near power lines.
- Treat all electrical wires, even cable and phone, as if they are energized.
- Remove entire branches that are growing toward the lines so you don't have to trim frequently.

How to Leave Your Home for the Summer

You've heard the stories about people returning to their Florida homes in the winter greeted by mildew, musty smells and rusty spots on their appliances. Now is the time to plan ahead, before you leave for the summer, so you can prevent this from happening to you.

- Many unoccupied homes need a small amount of air conditioning to control humidity. If the air conditioner is completely off, mildew damage may occur.
- Avoid this problem by installing a timer on the air conditioner to cycle for two hours per day. Or install a humidistat on your air conditioner. Set it to cycle your air conditioner whenever indoor humidity exceeds 65 percent.
- Save electricity by unplugging the water heater, since it will not be used.
- Leave all interior doors open to promote air flow and guard against mildew. Space out clothing, shoes and other stored materials for the same reason.
- A full refrigerator/freezer will use less power than an empty one. Use jugs of tap water to fill the unit. If you unplug the refrigerator, prop the door open and be sure it's clean.
- Just to be safe, have a neighbor, friend or professional house sitter check your home periodically during your absence.



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.

The future looks bright!



LCEC invests a great deal of time and effort to ensure a future workforce is informed and ready. Employees mentor students throughout the year, and senior supervisor of Customer Care Operations Gary Avin (second from left) was recently selected by the Foundation of Lee County Schools as the Mentor of the Year.



In addition, several times a year, LCEC hosts groups of students to demonstrate the many career opportunities the utility industry has to offer. During a recent visit from Mariner High School STEM students, knowledge was taken to great heights when students experienced the view from 120 feet in the air.

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



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