

Record summer temps cause electric bills to soar

Although LCEC has not raised rates in more than six years, customers are feeling the impact of sweltering temperatures. In August, temps reached an average of 97.9 throughout Southwest Florida. When outdoor temperatures are high, air conditioners work harder to cool homes. It is tempting to lower the thermostat below the recommended 78 degrees. Each degree lower adds eight percent to your cooling costs.

There are other easy ways to curb your usage and turn down the heat on summer energy bills too!

- Dry clothes in the sun instead of using the dryer, which adds extra heat inside your home.
- Use a ceiling fan when you are in the room and turn your AC up a notch.
- Grill out instead of using the oven or stove. Even the microwave uses two-thirds less energy.
- Plant a tree on the west side of your home to block direct sun. A shade tree can save three percent in energy costs after it matures for five years. After 15 years, the savings will be twelve percent, according to the National Arbor Day Foundation. Be sure to plant away from power lines.



October is National Electric Cooperative Month

As a customer of LCEC, you probably know about the advantages of being a member of a cooperative. Owned by their members, cooperatives exist solely to serve member needs. It's a refreshing concept, and there's nothing new about it.

Electric cooperatives cropped up nationwide in the 1930s and 1940s to bring power to rural areas that other power companies did not deem profitable.

LCEC was formed in 1940 when orange grove owner George Judd sold his power plant to his neighbors, who were unable to obtain electricity from nearby utilities.



Today, member-owned nonprofit electric utilities operate in 46 states and 80 percent of the nation's counties. In Florida, approximately 17 electric cooperatives provide low-cost electric service to more than 1.4 million people.

There's something inspirational about people working together as a community to better their lives. That's what we call the cooperative way, and at LCEC, we've been living it for nearly 75 years.



POWER you can RELY ON

Although electricity was regarded as a luxury many years ago, today it has become an essential part of life. Despite the growing dependence on electricity, people may not think about everything that takes place behind the electrical outlet.

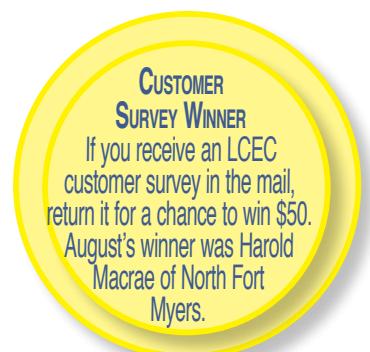
LCEC is committed to delivering reliable electricity. This mission is at the core of our business, and we work very hard to meet our customers' expectations. We know our customers expect us to balance the need for reliable power with keeping rates low. Following are just a few of the ways we have been able to improve reliability year after year without raising costs.

- We ensure the electric system operates as effectively as possible by conducting continual maintenance, standardizing operating procedures, and streamlining processes.
- We work hard to utilize resources properly and efficiently to reduce or maintain costs.
- We deploy technology to analyze data and monitor the system. Tracking typical replacement and repair cycles and proactively detecting areas that need attention reduce the chance for failures.
- Our long-term infrastructure plan ensures the system is able to meet growth, sustain essential services and exceed our customers' needs.



Visit www.lcec.net to:

- Pay Your Bill
- Change Your Billing Address
- Connect or Disconnect Service
- Request a Security or Streetlight Repair
- Request a Free Energy Survey
- Get Free Money-Saving Tips



Good Work!!

Lori > LCEC
Aug 21st, 10:50pm

Thank you for the great service today when we lost our power. You fixed it in less than 30 minutes. Thank you so very much.

An LCEC customer who lives in Springfield, Illinois, wrote his local newspaper recently to commend LCEC and the state of Florida for "doing things right." Below is an excerpt of his letter to the editor.

A few days later, I received my bill for electricity from LCEC, a Florida electric company. The Florida bill had a newsletter that talked about "holding down" electric rates to be helpful to businesses and homeowners. They have not raised their rates in six years, and they decreased rates this year. It is a cooperative that returned millions in profits to customers, and its rates appear to be lower than Springfield's.

Stephanie > LCEC
August 24 at 11:39pm ·

Wanna say thank you to those who worked to restore our power this evening after the storm went through. Took almost 2 hours but I am thankful to be able to go to bed with air conditioning.

THANK YOU and I pray that everyone got home to their families safe.

"Love, LOVE the enclosed newsletter every month with all the updates and good tips!"

Cape Coral Customer



Refrigerators are among the biggest energy users in American homes. An old, inefficient refrigerator can cost you an extra \$100 per year compared to a newer, more efficient model.

An old refrigerator can also put waste heat into your home and additional strain on your air conditioner.

If you're shopping for a refrigerator, consider the following:

- Side-by-side refrigerator/freezers use more energy than top-freezer models.
- Features such as automatic icemakers and on-door ice and water dispensers make refrigerators less efficient.
- It costs less to buy and operate a large refrigerator than two small ones.
- Piling things on top of the refrigerator can affect air circulation. Keep it clear.
- Clean the condenser coils once a year to help the refrigerator run efficiently.

ICE BUCKET CHALLENGE



In an effort to support the local Lee Memorial Health System ALS Clinic, employees, including several leaders, accepted the Ice Bucket Challenge. More than 20 lined up in front of the main building, and their co-workers dumped bucket after 5-gallon bucket of ice-cold water on them. The cold water takes your breath away and momentarily leaves you unable to move your muscles, both common symptoms of ALS. Along with contributions by employees, LCEC will make a contribution to the local ALS Clinic.



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LCEC is a nonprofit corporation. Established in 1940, LCEC delivers power to more than 204,000 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