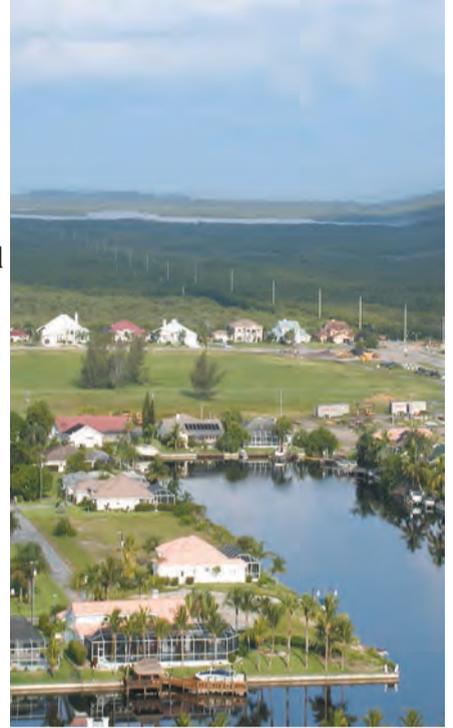




How does LCEC secure the funds to operate?

LCEC operates purely as a nonprofit electric cooperative. It is not financed by investors and is not authorized to impose taxes. So have you ever wondered how LCEC finances its long-term investments? One of the many unique features of an electric cooperative is that members provide capital to operate simply by paying their electric bill. Each year when LCEC closes its books, any revenue it has received from its members above the cost of providing electric services—which is called “margin”—is invested back into the cooperative as capital. This allows LCEC to buy equipment, make capital improvements, pay debt, and operate the business. It also helps reduce the need to borrow funds and pay the associated interest expense and is a key factor in keeping electric rates competitive.

Members are credited for their contribution to the operation of the cooperative through “capital credits,” which are allocated to each member’s equity account annually based on the amount the member paid for electricity during the year. Until those capital credits are retired, they are not in the form of cash. Each year, the LCEC Board of Trustees reviews the financial condition of the cooperative to determine whether a portion of previously allocated capital credits can be retired and returned to current and former members in the form of a check or utility bill credit. A retirement is approved only if the Board determines that the cooperative’s financial condition is adequate to support the payout. LCEC is proud to have returned more than \$231 million in retired capital credits to our members. Economic participation is just one of the benefits of belonging to a financially strong cooperative like LCEC.



LCEC electric RATES are nearly 11 percent lower than the average rates of all Florida utilities.



Respect your receptacles



Electric receptacles are located throughout your home and garage. You use them daily; but are you paying attention to their condition? The following tips will ensure that you are respecting your receptacles so they will function in a safe and reliable manner:

- Replace receptacles when they are broken they are affordable and easy to find at local hardware stores.
- Never modify a polarized plug to make it fit into an outdated, unpolarized receptacle.
- Replace cracked faceplates to avoid accidentally touching any live part of the receptacle.
- Invest in lockout receptacles or childproof plugs if there are young children in your home.
- Avoid using a power strip for lengthy periods of time. If you need to plug in more things than you have receptacles for, it may be time to add more receptacles to your home.

For more electrical safety tips, visit www.lcec.net.



Behind-the-scenes STORM PREPARATION

LCEC has a ten-year master plan for building and maintaining the electric system to continually improve reliability. Replacing infrastructure, inspecting facilities, and proactive maintenance are all part of making sure the system is ready if a severe storm heads our way. Preparing for storm season is a year-round venture for LCEC, and each employee is involved in the readiness planning. Following are just a few ways we ensure efficient power restoration:

1. Employees update and review the restoration plan annually so that everyone knows their role.
2. Ongoing partnerships with vendors ensure we have access to necessities such as additional line crews, tree trimmers, utility materials, fuel supplies, food and lodging.
3. System operators are certified by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and trained to dispatch, monitor and guide multiple crews throughout five counties safely.
4. Technology is maintained and updated frequently so that tools such as automated meter reading, geographic information systems, and electronic system mapping are available to restore power more quickly.
5. Statewide and local communication plans are tested, and employees are trained to work alongside government officials in city and county emergency operations centers.



CEILING Fans

Celebrate National Ceiling Fan Day (Sept. 18) in style!

Did you know?

Ceiling fans can provide comfort and help you save on your energy bills all year round.

And remember: Ceiling fans cool only people, not the room. So when you leave the room, turn the ceiling fan off.



In the winter, switch the fan in the opposite direction. Reversing the motor will produce a gentle updraft and will force the warm air near the ceiling down into the living space.



In the summer, check to make sure your fan is blowing air downward. On hotter days, dialing up the thermostat by only two degrees will make a huge difference. Using your ceiling fan can lower air conditioning costs by up to 14% over the course of the cooling season. Use low-wattage CFLs in the ceiling fan light fixture for cooler light bulbs and more energy savings.



LCEC donation just in time!

This past July, LCEC employees made a special trip downtown to the Resource Center at The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools. The LCEC Team donated about 50 computer monitors to the Center that will be offered to teachers to use in their classrooms.



Courtesy of www.willystreet.coop

LCEC is a nonprofit corporation. Established in 1940, LCEC delivers power to more than 207,840 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



CUSTOMER SURVEY WINNER
If you receive an LCEC customer survey in the mail, return it for a chance to win \$50. Last month's winner was Susan Jones of Sanibel.