



LCEC RATES AMONG FIFTH LOWEST

LCEC has not raised electric rates in more than eight years. As a matter of fact, rates have been reduced five times in the last three years. A great deal of work has gone into becoming one of the five utilities with the lowest rates in Florida. The most recent published rates put us there!

Process improvements, stringent budget practices, and a favorable power supply contract have all helped employees keep rates low for customers. The good news is that LCEC is not planning a rate increase in 2017, and we will continue to keep your rates competitive while delivering electricity you can count on!

Earlier this year, LCEC completed a transmission rebuild project that included construction in environmentally sensitive areas and across Matlacha Pass. The project to replace 34 transmission structures was critical to ensuring reliability to thousands of customers, and the goal was to energize the rebuilt line to proactively mitigate risk. Planning for the project began in 2010 and included time for both extensive permitting and careful route selection process. Although construction was not typical, LCEC and contract crews completed the project just ahead of schedule.



Boldly going where needed

Good for the environment and the bottom line



LCEC has a coordinated recycling program for field materials and discarded office resources. In 2015, LCEC recycled 708,000 pounds of aluminum, copper, metal, cardboard, glass, and other materials, and nearly half a ton of paper. In 2016 efforts remain strong. While earning revenue for some material donations, other items are often repurposed in classrooms, nonprofit offices, and even to form off-shore reefs. Our business is delivering electricity, and we understand there are other ways we can make a positive impact on the future too.



October is a special month for cooperatives! This month marks the 86th annual National Cooperative Month. Cooperative month is centered on spotlighting what makes a cooperative different from other types of businesses and utilities. It is a perfect time to be proud you are a member of LCEC!

- Cooperatives are democratic businesses with equal membership of a community of people.
- Every member has one vote.
- Cooperatives keep money and jobs in their community.
- Cooperatives are not theory. They are practical solutions to many economic, environmental, and social problems that can be implemented right now.



- Cooperatives aren't charity—they are a means for self-help and solidarity.
- Members equally share the burden in hard times and equally share the benefits in good times.
- Cooperatives are an international movement. There are thousands upon thousands of cooperatives around the world that make a difference.
- Cooperatives strive to make lives, communities, and economies more just, equitable, and democratic.

LCEC is just one of more than 29,000 cooperatives in the nation! Cooperatives range from small to large and include big names like Land O'Lakes and Sunkist. In October, and every day, we thank you for being members of LCEC! We are proud to deliver the power that energizes our community.

STAY COOL AND SAFE

Hot weather brings increased use of air conditioners. Contact with electricity from air conditioners accounts for a large number of electrocutions and electrical injuries each year.

Always contact a qualified, licensed electrician to perform any electrical work in your home, including the installation and servicing of air-conditioning and other cooling equipment.

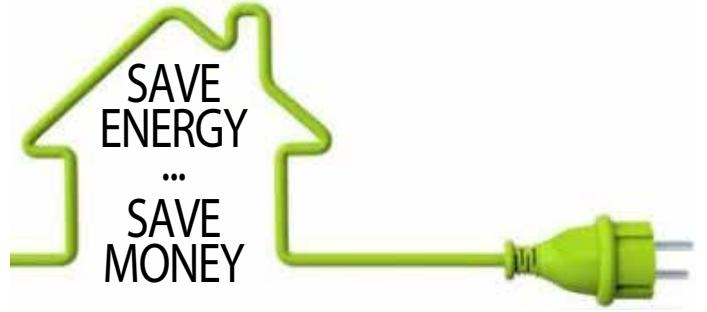
FACTS AND STATISTICS

- Many consumer-product related electrocutions are attributed to large appliances. These electrocutions occur most commonly while someone is attempting to service or repair the appliance.
- A great number of injuries involve air conditioners, fans, humidifiers, dehumidifiers, air purifiers, and heat pumps. The leading types of injuries are laceration, contusion or abrasion, and strain or sprain.
- Thousands of air conditioning units or related equipment are involved in home structure fires annually.

COOLING EQUIPMENT SAFETY TIPS

- Keep safety in mind when selecting cooling equipment for your home.
- Have electric-powered equipment inspected and maintained regularly for safety.
- Make sure your equipment has the label showing that it is listed by a recognized testing laboratory.

YOU KNOW THEM, BUT DO YOU USE THEM?



We all know simple ways to save money on our electric bills, but are you actively using these tips? If your answer is no, there is no better time to start than NOW! Below are some simple tips to remember to use:

- Keep the thermostat at 78 degrees when you are home. Each degree below adds 8 to 12 percent to the cooling costs. When leaving your home for more than two hours, set the thermostat to 83 degrees.
- When heating your home, set the thermostat at 65 degrees. Since heating costs three times more than cooling, consider using a space heater or electric blanket when the weather gets chilly.
- Consider installing a programmable thermostat that will automatically raise and lower the temperature at certain times of the day.
- Have your AC system serviced annually. Change or clean air filters monthly.
- Do not locate refrigerators/freezers in a garage or other non-air conditioned space.
- Full freezers use less power. Use plastic soda bottles filled with water or bags of ice when leaving your home vacant for a long period of time.
- Replace standard light bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), which use 75% less energy, or LED lamps (light emitting diode), which use 85% less energy with a life expectancy of 30,000 to 50,000 hours of run time.
- Turn off fans when the room is not occupied. Each continuously running fan costs approximately \$7 per month on your electric bill.
- Run pool pumps for a maximum of 8 hours a day in the summer and 6 hours per day in the winter unless you are heating the pool.

These tips may not seem like they will make a big difference, but every effort counts when it comes to conserving electricity! For more green tips, visit the Energy Efficiency section of www.lcec.net.



LCEC'S ROAD TRANSFORMERS Mean (Clean) Business

LCEC has been a proud member of the Adopt a Road program in Lee County for more than two decades! Every other month LCEC employees and their friends and families volunteer their Saturday morning to clean a section of road in North Fort Myers. Not only do these amazing volunteers leave our adopted road clear of clutter, they have a great time doing it! This is just one of the many ways that LCEC gives back to the community!



LCEC is a nonprofit corporation. Established in 1940, LCEC delivers power to more than 210,000 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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LCEC PR Team Honored at FPRA Golden Image Awards

LCEC Senior Public Relations Specialist Laura Puerto proudly accepted two awards on behalf the LCEC PR team during the Florida Public Relations Association (FPRA) Golden Image Awards banquet held in Palm Harbor, Florida, in August. The awards included an Award of Distinction for LCEC's television commercial campaign, which featured over 20 employees telling the LCEC story, and an Award of Distinction for the creation of a commemorative 75th Anniversary Book which highlighted LCEC's rich history. To qualify for judging, a Golden Image entry must incorporate sound public relations research and planning, and meet the highest standard of production, execution, and evaluation of results and budget.



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 Mark Decelle of Cape Coral.