



Investing in the system = power you can count on

Every day, LCEC is focused on maintaining our role as one of the lowest-cost utilities in Florida. We try to balance the desire for low rates with the need to reinvest in the electric system. Reducing power outages also helps to avoid expensive repair or replacement of infrastructure. Demands on the electric system change from day to day due to weather, environmental forces, evolving usage patterns, increasing adaptation of renewable energy, and customer growth. Utilizing sophisticated analytic tools, planning models, and member investment, LCEC is able to operate and maintain the system and improve reliability year after year. We know that dependability is as important to customers as competitive rates, and it is our mission to deliver both.

NO RATE INCREASE in 2017!!

With rates among the lowest in Florida and electricity our customers can rely upon, we have a lot to live up to in the New Year. We are ready to meet the challenge! Employees continue to streamline processes, explore new technology, and perform ongoing maintenance and analysis on the system while responding to customer needs and delivering reliable power.

It's what we do, and we are proud that we have been able to do it without increasing rates over the past eight years!

EASY WAYS TO PAY

Relax with LCEC's convenient payment options

LCEC offers many payment options. The most efficient is to enroll in LCEC AutoPay. No stamps, no checks, no fees, no hassles! It is also free to pay online or over the phone using a bank account, and your payment posts to your LCEC account right away.

If credit or debit cards work better for you, the option is available online or over the phone. There is a third-party processing fee of \$4.00, and your payment posts within six hours, if made prior to 4 p.m.

There are also many authorized walk-in payment stations throughout the service territory. Payments are posted within 30 minutes if paid before 8 p.m.

Visit www.lcec.net to find out more!

Board of Trustee election ballots to hit your mailbox in March

As an electric cooperative member, you have the right to elect your Board members every year. It's one of the benefits that sets a cooperative utility apart from investor-owned or government-run municipal utilities. Board members are customers. The Trustee positions in North Fort Myers and Lehigh Acres are up for election this year. Seat elections are staggered to allow for continuity on the Board.

The Nominating Committee, comprised of LCEC customers from throughout the service territory, will be interviewing candidates in January. Committee members will recommend candidates who they feel have the ability to represent the total membership on an impartial and equitable basis. In addition, they look for characteristics related to financial oversight and compliance, risk management, business ethics, problem solving, independent thinking, cohesiveness, integrity, awareness of local issues, and ability to study data and information related to the utility industry.

Vote the green way! When you cast your vote online or by phone instead of mailing your ballot, you help to keep rates low.



10 Reasons CO-OPS ROCK

1 Cooperatives are **DEMOCRATIC** businesses & organizations **EQUALLY OWNED & CONTROLLED** by a group of people. In a cooperative, **ONE** member has **ONE** vote.

6 Cooperatives are **more resilient & IN ECONOMIC DOWNTURNS & IN IMPOVERISHED COMMUNITIES.** When other businesses may shut down or lay off workers, **co-op members pull together TO WORK OUT SOLUTIONS.**

7 Cooperatives are an **INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT.** There are **thousands upon thousands** of cooperatives around the world that are making **major differences GLOBALLY & LOCALLY.**

2 Because cooperatives are democratically owned by community members, co-ops keep **MONEY & JOBS in their communities.**

8 Cooperatives strive to make people's **LIVES, COMMUNITIES, AND ECONOMIES** more **JUST, EQUITABLE, & DEMOCRATIC.**


3 Cooperatives aren't a far off theory. Cooperatives offer **achievable and practical solutions** to many **ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL PROBLEMS** that can be implemented **RIGHT NOW.**

9 There's no **one right way** to do a co-op. They can be flexible to fit **DIFFERENT COMMUNITY & INDIVIDUAL NEEDS.**

4 **COOPERATIVES AREN'T CHARITY;** they're an **empowering means** for self-help & **solidarity.**

10 Cooperatives are **VIABLE & JUST ALTERNATIVES** for meeting our social and economic needs.

5 Members **equally share THE BURDEN IN HARD TIMES & THE BENEFITS IN GOOD TIMES.**

Brought to you with love & solidarity by  Design by Wally McCard

New Year's Resolution

#1: Save Energy

The new year is a perfect time to make energy savings a top priority. Here are some simple tips for 2017!

Choose Energy Star products for your home. In its lifetime, an Energy Star product could save upwards of \$750!



Hire a certified professional to service your air conditioner. Do your part to check and replace air filters regularly.



Invest in a programmable thermostat. Using as directed can save you up to 10 percent a year on your cooling costs.



For more energy-savings tips, visit www.lcec.net.

HOLIDAY HELPERS

LCEC employees did their part to make the season bright. The LCEC team contributed to the Head Start program at Caloosa, Tropic Isles, Skyline, and J. Colin Elementary Schools. Donated gift cards helped purchase sweaters, jackets, shoes, and pants for students in need. More than 60 pounds of food was collected for local food pantries, and dozens of employees and family members packed meals on Christmas Eve to help end hunger for the holidays. Backpacks stuffed with personal items and holiday dinner treats were delivered to clients at the Salvation Army medical unit, and household items were dropped off to parents of children spending the holiday at Lee Health hospitals. Nearly 1,000 holiday cards were addressed to soldiers away from home. Employees also volunteered to decorate at the Edison & Ford Winter Estates Holiday Nights, Marco Island Tree Lighting, the 60th Anniversary Holiday House, and the Goodwill Festival of Trees.



Boating Safely in Sunny SWFL

One of the biggest perks of living in sunny SWFL is the year-round warm weather. Boating is very popular among residents of all ages. Although a day on the water is fun, it can be very dangerous for those who ignore potential electrical hazards associated with boating.

- Always be aware of power lines. Keep at least 10 feet distance between your boat and the lines.
- If your boat comes in contact with a power line, do not jump into the water!! The water could be energized and dangerous. Remain calm and stay in the boat. Do not touch anything metal until help arrives.
- It is also wise to ensure that your dockside outlets have GFCIs and that any cords plugged into the outlets are in good condition without exposed wires or broken casing.

Following these simple tips is as easy as remembering to wear your sunscreen! Protect yourself and your loved ones and ensure that you don't interrupt power for other LCEC customers.

Happy boating!



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 Phyllis Norris of North Fort Myers.



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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