



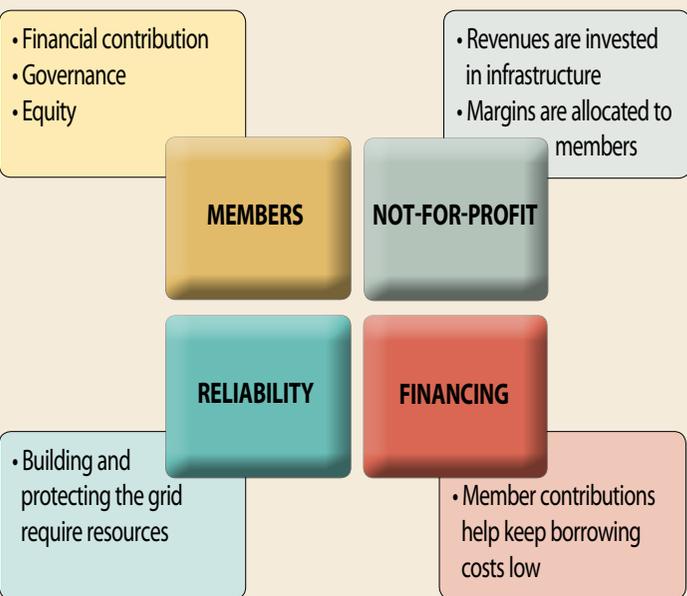
COOPERATIVE BUSINESS MODEL

There are many types of business structures. LCEC operates as a not-for-profit electric cooperative, which is not all that unusual. There are more than 900 electric cooperatives throughout the nation, serving over 40 million members.

Cooperatives, in general, operate in virtually every country in the world under the same business principles. They have been around since the 1800s with the purpose of responding to the needs of all stakeholders: members, employees, the local community, and suppliers.

Cooperatives price goods or services competitively and utilize patronage capital to operate and maintain the business. Members share the responsibility of funding infrastructure for reliable electricity and quality service. Allocated equity represents all members have provided the company after expenses. It is not in the form of cash. When financially possible, the Board of Trustees determines what portion of equity can be retired. According to the US Department of Agriculture, cooperatives hold allocated member equity for 18 years on average. LCEC has been able to retire equity after seven years of inactivity and a portion annually to active members. This practice has been possible due to strong budget practices and has helped to avoid financial strain, keep rates competitive, and maintain a favorable credit rating with lenders.

Be sure to read more about the benefits of the cooperative business model next month!



SHOCKING ELECTRICITY FACTS

from Lee County Electric Cooperative

- It doesn't take much to get shocked. The amount of electricity used by one 7.5-watt tiny decorative light string bulb can be fatal if it passes through your chest.
- Power lines carry 14,400 volts of electricity.
- Electricity always takes the easiest path to the ground, even if it means going through a body.
- Electrocutation is one of the top five causes of workplace deaths.
- Approximately 300 workplace deaths a year are caused by electrocution.
- Many workplace electrocutions involve touching a power line with equipment.

Each year, electricity-related incidents in the home cause approximately:

- 300 electrocutions
- 12,000 shock and burn injuries
- 150,000 fires

LCEC employees always use personal protective equipment as a first line of defense against shock or electrical burns. This equipment includes boots and gloves, insulated tools and handling equipment. Even a pinhole will let electricity through. Make sure you know the facts to keep you and your family safe.



The plane facts
In July a plane crash took down LCEC lines serving 1,800 customers in Cape Coral. Fortunately, the pilot was not seriously injured. LCEC crews arrived on the scene right away and were ready to restore power as soon as the Federal Aviation Administration gave the all-clear. Within no time, a temporary fix was completed, and employees worked into the night to repair infrastructure permanently.

Technology leads to even more reliability improvements



At LCEC our mission is to deliver reliable electricity and quality service at the lowest possible price. In the August edition of LCEC News we featured an article about devices on the grid that reduce the number of extended outages by protecting equipment from

serious damage. Deployment of reclosures and fuses results in blinking lights but helps minimize the impact of an outage. Proactive maintenance efforts also help to reduce the chance of power interruptions. Even so, outages sometimes occur.

LCEC technology can help to minimize the impact of an outage. The LCEC outage management system and automated meters, installed in 2003,

help to ensure quicker power restoration. Once restoration is complete, the meter can be checked remotely to verify restoration.

Although blinks and outages are impossible to eliminate completely, remarkable improvements have been made through advances in technology, and we continue to explore additional improvements.

THANKS for the THANKS!

"A great big thank you to the service people who restored power this morning during that nasty storm. You are so appreciated!"

Dawn – Cape Coral

"LCEC was extremely helpful and knowledgeable. You went beyond my expectations. Outstanding service!"

Vivianrita – North Fort Myers

"Your customer rep was truly excellent and provided the best customer service I have ever encountered!"

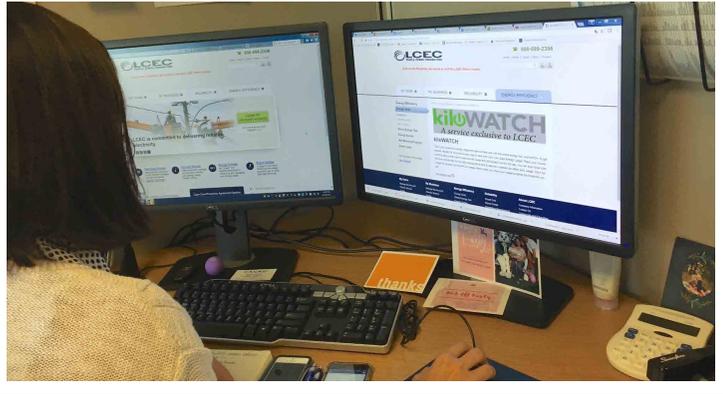
Martha – Ave Maria

"I just wanted to take a moment to thank everyone at LCEC for helping us with our projects. LCEC has a top-notch staff. The knowledge and understanding of power systems far exceeds what I have been accustomed to in the past. I look forward to working together in the future."

City of Cape Coral employee

Your cooperative is here for you!

As a member of an electric cooperative, you have a lot of power at your fingertips. LCEC delivers electricity to our customers and so much more. We provide free energy advisement online and in person. Our energy-saving tools can alert you when your usage exceeds a threshold you set yourself. We offer safe generator connection and surge protection at a price you can afford. You can do all this and make a payment, report an outage, request a security light, or inquire about tree trimming at www.lcec.net.



SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS



ABC-7 made a visit to LCEC when they were putting together their 2017 Hurricane Survival special. LCEC experts shared information about safe generator operation and the importance of staying away from downed power lines. Visit <https://www.lcec.net/pdf/LCECHurricaneGuide.pdf> to learn more!



LED lighting – great idea!

LED lighting is unlike other lighting sources such as incandescent bulbs and compact fluorescent lighting (CFL). The main differences are:

LIGHT SOURCE: They are the size of a speck of pepper, with a mix of red, green, and blue used to make white light.

DIRECTION: They emit light in a specific direction, reducing the need for reflectors and diffusers that can trap light. This makes them efficient for many uses such as task lighting.

HEAT: LEDs emit very little heat. In comparison, incandescent bulbs release 90% of their energy as heat and CFLs release about 80% of their energy as heat.

Typically, LED lights use about 25% less energy than traditional incandescent lights and can last at least three times longer.

Source: energy.gov

President's Distinguished Club – 10 years running

The LCEC Electric Toasters, a Toastmasters International club, recently achieved another President's Distinguished award. The annual program consists of 10 goals that must be achieved over the year.

The highest-level achievement any individual Toastmaster can achieve is the Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM). The member must complete a number of speeches, mentor other clubs within the community, complete a youth leadership program, and serve in leadership roles at the district level. Five members of the Electric Toasters have achieved DTM status. Out of 4 million members, only 0.5 percent have ever achieved this goal.

Electric Toasters meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month at 12:05 p.m. at the North Ft. Myers LCEC headquarters. Guests are always welcome! Visit <https://5701.toastmastersclubs.org/> for more info.



CUSTOMER SURVEY WINNERS

If you receive an LCEC customer survey, return it for a chance to win \$100. Last month's winners were Eugenia Gomez of Immokalee and John Pennell of Ochopee.



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LCEC is a nonprofit corporation. Established in 1940, LCEC delivers power to more than 214,900 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