



# Post-Irma

Several months after Hurricane Irma, one of the largest Atlantic storms in history, LCEC restoration follow up continues. While the LCEC system performed well, there was extensive damage in areas such as Lehigh Acres, Immokalee, Everglades City, and other areas throughout Southwest Florida. Repairs, follow-up work, streetlight repairs, and post-storm analysis are expected through year-end. LCEC has filed for FEMA reimbursement for the millions spent on restoration efforts. It could take some time for FEMA to make a determination. In the meantime, LCEC will continue an aggressive tree-trimming program and targeted system maintenance to help ensure year-round reliability.



## Why not put all the lines underground?

According to Ted Kury, director of energy studies at the University of Florida's Public Utility Research Center, burying lines is not a magic bullet for hurricane preparedness. Floodwaters could slow down restoration of underground infrastructure. Although tree branches do not affect buried lines, tree roots do. Uprooted trees throughout the service territory ripped lines out of the ground, requiring specialized crews and equipment to make repairs. In addition, underground lines are served by equipment that is above the ground. When primary infrastructure sustains damage, the underground lines have no source of power and remain out until repairs can be completed.



## By the members, for the members



A Board of Trustees, elected by the members, governs LCEC. As members themselves, they work to ensure quality service and reliable electricity at competitive rates for the members. Board members serve the membership as a whole and represent all geographic areas. They make decisions and set policies in the best interest of all members. At the same time, they must learn and understand industry trends and regulatory requirements. While day-to-day responsibility is entrusted to the leadership team and employees, the Board provides oversight of the overarching business strategy. LCEC Trustees have earned a reputation for championing strong values, dedication to the community, and diverse business experience. Applications for Board positions representing Marco Island, Sanibel/Pine Island, and Cape Coral are being accepted through January 2, 2018. Contact [pr@lcec.net](mailto:pr@lcec.net) if you would like more information.



### **SAFETY**

is an everyday thing

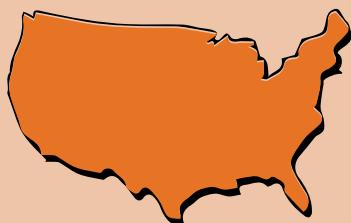
When using it during your daily life, it's easy to forget that electricity can be dangerous. LCEC makes safety a priority. We practice safety in everything we do. We offer resources to keep our customers safe. Visit [www.lcec.net](http://www.lcec.net) to make sure you and your loved ones have the power to stay safe around electricity.

## How do LCEC electric rates measure up?

### Average per 1,000 kWh

Per U.S. Department of Energy, August 2017

### United States



**\$131.90**

### Florida



**\$118.60**

### LCEC



**\$102.50**

# Plug into a safe holiday



Keep electric safety in mind as you deck the halls! Ensure all electrical items, including extension cords, are certified by a nationally recognized, independent testing lab such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Intertek (ETL), or Canadian Standards Association (CSA). Make sure extension cords are properly rated for their intended use, indoor or outdoor, and meet or exceed the power needs of the item being energized.

- Don't extend the length of an extension cord by connecting it to another extension cord.
- Extension cords are for temporary use.
- Do not run extension cords under carpets, rugs, or furniture.
- Be sure cords are not pinched.
- Never remove the third prong of a plug to fit it into a two-prong outlet.



## Galloping goblins galore

The 2017 United Way 5K Race took place on a beautiful Florida morning. The committee showed up before dawn to prep, and the more than 100 participants were excited to get their awesome race shirt and goodie bags. In the end, the event raised over \$1,000 and made some great memories!



## Holiday hours

Call the LCEC Customer Care Center Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. for the quickest service!

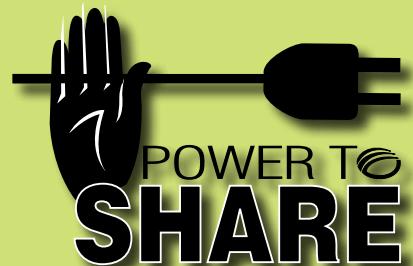
During the Christmas holiday, LCEC offices will close at 6 p.m. on Friday, December 22, and be closed Monday, December 25, and Tuesday, December 26, reopening for normal business on Wednesday, December 27. LCEC will also be closed on January 1. **You can always conduct business online at [www.lcec.net](http://www.lcec.net) any day of the year, day or night!**

## Lending a hand to those in need.

### LCEC Power to Share Program

LCEC employees and customers are reaching neighbors in need through donations to Power to Share. A small contribution can go a long way toward helping those in our community facing hard times. The Power to Share Program is a United Way community partnership offering a short-term source of emergency assistance funds for customers who need help. All contributions to the LCEC Power to Share program will be used exclusively for LCEC customers to help pay for essential electric service.

LCEC Power to Share is administered through the United Way 211 program.



For information or to make a donation:  
<http://form.jotform.com/form/12212639761>  
**Call 211 or 239-433-3900.**

# RESOLVE TO REDUCE YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

**You don't have to wait until the clock strikes midnight to start saving! Follow these four no-cost or low-cost ways to manage your electric bill.**



When not using lights, computers, televisions, and fans turn them off.



Replace old light bulbs with efficient energy-saving bulbs.



Install a programmable thermostat and manage temps while you are away from home.



Replace your AC filters monthly and have your system serviced once a year.

### CUSTOMER SURVEY WINNERS

If you receive an LCEC customer survey, return it for a chance to win \$100. Last month's winners were Sandeep Dey of North Fort Myers and Scott Knechtel of Naples.



[www.facebook.com/LCEC1](http://www.facebook.com/LCEC1)

LCEC is a nonprofit corporation. Established in 1940, LCEC delivers power to more than 214,054 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](http://www.lcec.net)