

National Electric Cooperative Month

Electric cooperatives represent democracy in action as they are governed by a Board of Trustees elected from the ranks of the members. The Board has oversight over the policies, finances, and employees who operate the business daily. LCEC generates jobs in the community and is one of the largest employers in the region. We pay local taxes and support community services and causes. LCEC is in business only to serve its customers, and since 1940 our focus has been on delivering reliable electricity and quality service at a reasonable rate.

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Employ more than **68,200** Americans, support **97,600** contractors and **170,900** suppliers

Account for **42%** of the nation's distribution lines and cover **56%** of the nation's land mass

Power more than **20 million** homes, schools, and businesses in **47** states

Generate more than **\$22 billion** in taxes

Invest **\$12 billion** annually in local economies

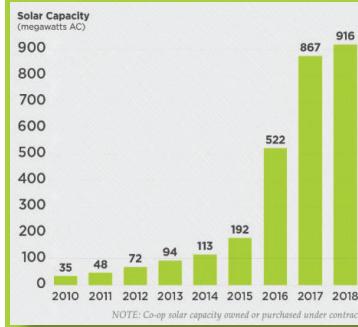
Provide electricity generated by renewable energy sources

Serve **42 million** people across **88%** of U.S. counties



Electric cooperative solar power growing!

There are more than 900 electric cooperatives located throughout the nation. Over the last several years electric cooperatives like LCEC have nearly doubled the amount of solar power delivered to customers. LCEC is able to distribute more solar power annually thanks to increased production by our power provider and our net-metering program which allows customers with renewable systems at their home or business to put excess power on the grid and receive a credit toward their bill.



LCEC NEWS



OCTOBER 2019



No base rate increase in the near future

This is good news for customers as LCEC enters into the twelfth straight year without a rate increase. While rates remain steady, LCEC has been able to continue delivering reliable electricity and quality service and remain ahead of the curve for increased capacity needs.

Are you interested in applying for a Board of Trustee position?

LCEC is governed by a 10-member Board of Trustees elected by all members. Trustees are not LCEC employees and do not receive a salary. They attend monthly Board meetings and various committee meetings and must stay abreast of utility industry trends and news. The Board is responsible for establishing policies and ensuring LCEC operates within the core values and the principles on which the cooperative was founded. They maintain strategic direction and represent the best interest of all members.

Applications for the Lehigh Acres and North Fort Myers seats will be available in November. All account holders residing in those districts are eligible to apply. Board seat elections are staggered in order to provide continuity. At least three seats are up for election each year.



New technology leads to improved reliability



There are many things that can cause a fault on a power line. Lightning, animals, trees, and vehicle accidents are just a few of the most common culprits. Protective devices are used to reduce the number of outages caused by outside forces. To avoid larger, lengthy outages, reclosers are used to automatically reset the circuit to allow time for the line to be cleared. They can also be used to sectionalize part of the system to reduce the number of customers impacted. The devices can be controlled remotely through the LCEC communication system or manually on location.

LCEC recently installed a new type of recloser, which is more lightweight and compact, and easier to install. The new equipment uses advanced microprocessor technology, which enhances the ability to gather near realtime data and fault analysis that can be used to further improve reliability.



Be sure to check us out on social media! Receive safety, conservation, and LCEC info on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn!



www.facebook.com/LCECSWFL

LCEC is a nonprofit corporation. Established in 1940, LCEC delivers power to more than 219,744 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 WINNERS

If you receive an LCEC customer survey, return it for a chance to win \$100. Last month's winners were Robert MacDonald of Cape Coral, Tina Prince of Cape Coral, Carolyn Bellor of North Fort Myers, and Jose Duarte of Immokalee.

What's on an Electric Power Pole?

Basic equipment found on a typical distribution pole. Equipment can vary by location.

Insulators prevent energized wires from contacting each other or the utility pole.



A crossarm holds the wires on the pole.



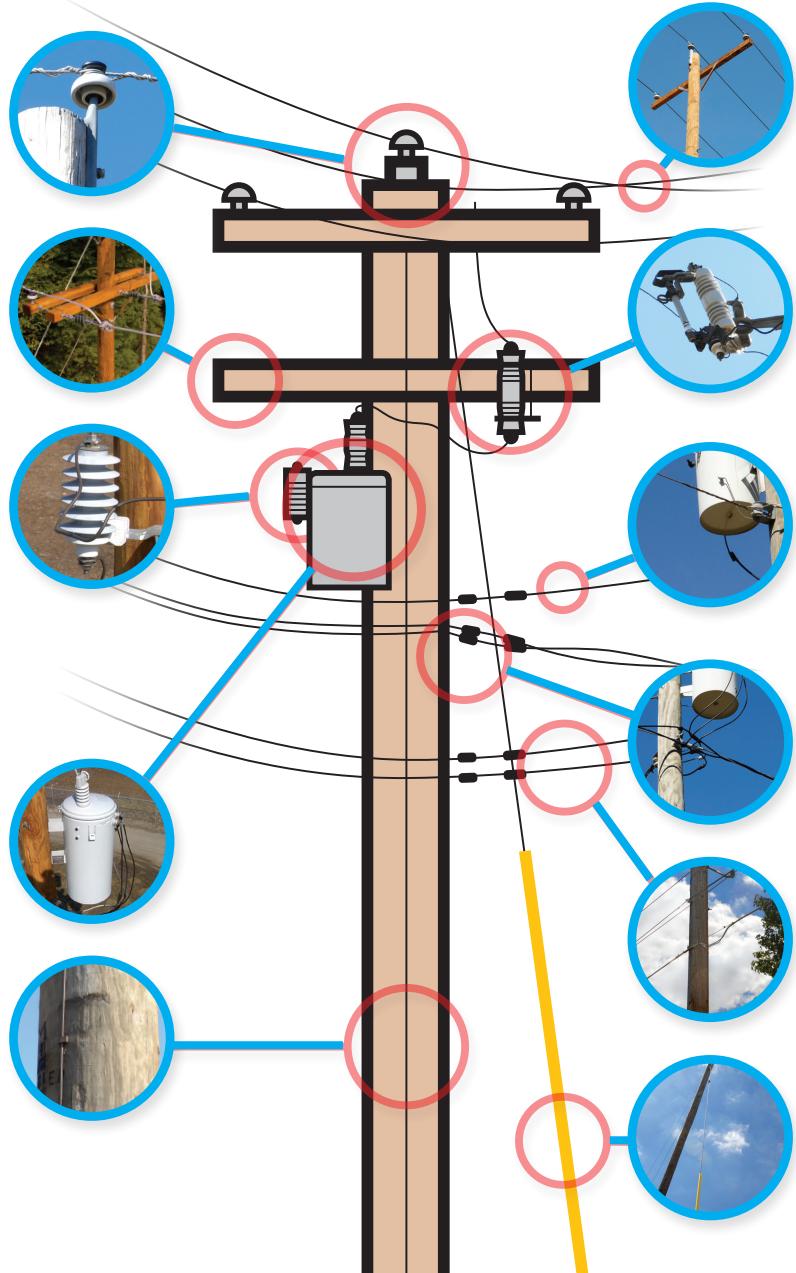
Lightning arrestors protect the pole and equipment from lightning strikes.



Transformers convert electricity voltage to a voltage that serves customers.



A ground wire runs the length of the pole. It directs electric current on the pole safely into the ground.



Primary wires are on top of the pole and carry electricity from a substation to homes and businesses.



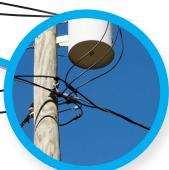
Fuses open when there is a fault on the line or a section of it.



The neutral wire is below the transformer and balances the amount of electricity or load on the system.



The secondary wire carries lower voltage electricity after it passes through the transformer.



Telephone and cable wires are typically at the bottom of the pole.



Guy wires help to stabilize the utility pole.



Know the location of power lines

Contacting a power line can be deadly. Know where overhead and underground lines are before you work or play.



Remain at least 10 feet away from overhead lines.

1



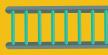
Do not touch anything that is contacting the power line - including people.

2



Beware of fences and tree branches.

3



Carry ladders and other equipment horizontally.

4



Lower booms and other equipment before driving.

5



Always call 811 for a locate before digging or planting anything.

6



Stay at least 35 feet away from downed power lines.

7

Electrical Safety for your home



With the holiday's approaching and the possibility of more gadgets and electronics in your home, more dangers are present too. Eliminate the need to worry about electrical dangers by knowing the hazards and how to avoid them. Unless you are a professional electrician, do not install the electrical wiring in your home. Hire a professional and periodically have a qualified electrician check your wires for damage, wear, cracks or corrosion.

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

SmartHub

Be in the know with LCEC's SmartHub! Enrollment is easy through LCEC.net. In addition to information about how to set up an account with SmartHub, there are tutorials for downloading the SmartHub app, how to set up an account on a mobile device, and FAQs. Below are some of the MANY things you can do through SmartHub:

Enroll in SmartHub today for a one-stop-shop for all your LCEC needs.

- View and pay your bill, and check account history
- Enroll in paperless billing
- View daily usage
- Set thresholds and usage alerts
- Report an outage
- Contact customer service
- Start and stop service