



That's the way the

**EGG DROPS**



Kindergarten students in Immokalee built vessels for a raw egg that LCEC dropped from 55 feet high. All but two eggs survived!



If you are interested in receiving a copy of the 2018 Annual Report, please contact [pr@lcec.net](mailto:pr@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 Persides Zambrano of Cape Coral and Ernest Woods of Cape Coral.



[www.facebook.com/LCECSWFL](https://www.facebook.com/LCECSWFL)

## Team LCEC helps with Odyssey of the Mind



LCEC employees and retirees helped Odyssey of the Mind celebrate 40 years of creativity and problem solving by serving as judges at the latest competition. Odyssey of the Mind is a unique way for students to exercise their creative thinking skills, and LCEC is proud to be part of developing leaders for the future!

LCEC is a nonprofit corporation. Established in 1940, LCEC delivers power to more than 217,754 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)

# LCEC NEWS



**LCEC**  
PEOPLE. POWER. POSSIBILITIES.

MAY 2019

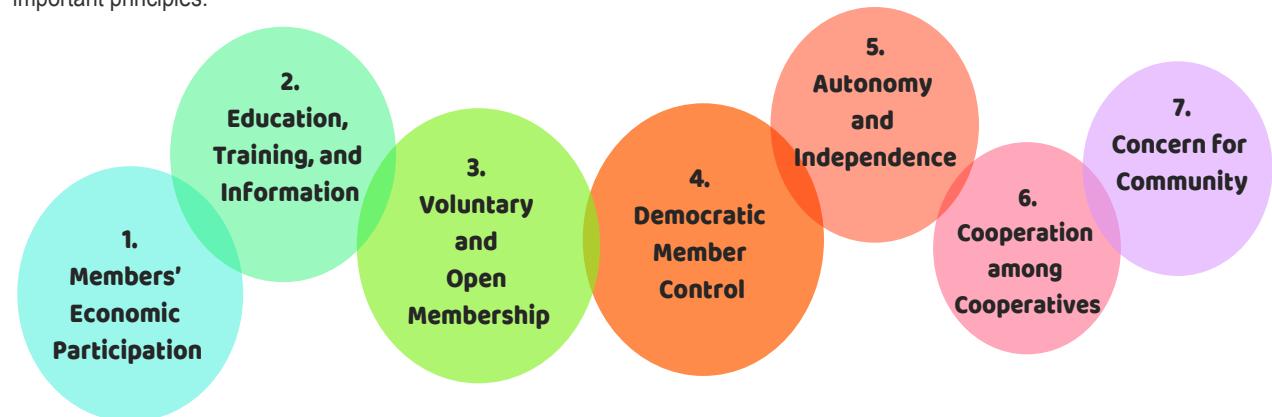
Same low electric rates for

**11**  
YEARS

According to the most recent rate comparison, LCEC has the sixth lowest rates of all utilities in Florida. This is a result of a strong budget process, a strong power supplier relationship, and efforts to work as efficiently as possible. LCEC is also proud that we have not raised rates in 11 years and have allocated more than \$14.5 million in equity to active and inactive customers.

## THE COOPERATIVE WAY

As a member, you are part of something special and unique. In simple terms, a cooperative is a not-for-profit business voluntarily owned and controlled by the people in the community who use its service. Electric cooperatives were formed to bring electricity to rural households that investor-owned utilities did not reach or didn't want to serve. For cooperatives, it's not about the profit...it's about the members (a.k.a. YOU). In that respect, cooperatives have a unique business model based on seven important principles.



LCEC was established in 1940 and has spent 79 years putting members first while delivering the power that energizes our community! We are honored to serve our members and make you proud to be part of this cooperative!

## Time to Spring into Safety. It's National Electrical Safety Month!

May is National Electrical Safety Month. Electricity powers our homes and offices, and safety knowledge is important. LCEC joins the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) in efforts to reduce the number of fires, fatalities, injuries, and property loss related to electricity. Following are electrical safety tips to keep in mind this month and every month:



Check electric cords for cracking or fraying. Replace damaged cords and don't overload electric outlets.



Keep ladders, kites, booms, pool skimmers, and antennas away from overhead power lines.



Smoke alarms should be in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of a home.



Before you dig, call 811 to have utility lines marked. Remember that power lines are underground as well as overhead.



Invest in safety items such as gloves, goggles, and hearing protection that are appropriate to the work or electrical tool that you will be using.

Together we can reduce the number of these incidents. For more electrical safety tips, visit [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org) or [www.lcec.net](http://www.lcec.net).

## SmartHub is our online or mobile portal for convenience

You have access to all of your account information and more in one spot. View your billing and payment history, store your payment info, pay a bill, schedule an extension, or sign up for AutoPay and paperless billing. You can also manage your usage by tracking it daily, setting up alerts, and comparing from month to month or year to year. If you haven't enrolled yet, it's easy!

1. Visit [www.lcec.net](http://www.lcec.net). Click the New User link.
2. Enter billing account number and email address.
3. Enter security information.
4. Confirm with temporary password received by email.
5. Create a new password and you are enrolled!

## Helping the environment in more ways than one

LCEC's Environmental Funding Award program began in 2013 as a means to positively impact and support wildlife and the environment. LCEC has awarded nearly \$100,000 to local organizations who meet certain criteria, including location within LCEC service territory, projects/programs related to the environment and the utility industry, and a demonstrated need for funds.

For more information on this program or an application, email [pr@lcec.net](mailto:pr@lcec.net) or call 239-656-2202.

Funding is awarded twice a year, with deadlines in March and September.

## RELIABLE ELECTRICITY

# Always on

LCEC has practices and procedures in place to ensure the electric system is maintained and operating reliably every minute of every day, year-round. When compared to other utilities in our region, our metrics indicate the lights are on more than ever. When it comes to reliable power, LCEC performance was well above average. A few drivers of reliable power include:

- An integrated business plan aimed at meeting electric needs.
- Skilled and knowledgeable workers.
- Routine maintenance on 8,000 miles of line and additional electric infrastructure.
- Annual facilities and equipment inspections.
- Investment in a vegetation management plan.
- Technology to predict capacity needs and respond to potential system issues.
- Quick and efficient response when trouble occurs.

## You are using green power!



LCEC is an electric distribution cooperative and does not generate electricity. Fortunately, our power supplier has a diverse fuel mix that includes a vast amount of green power that LCEC delivers directly to you! The green power you receive is generated at one of 18 major solar power plants and numerous other solar installations, including panels installed at Babcock Ranch.

## Say sayonara to your second fridge



If you have a second refrigerator in your home (or hot garage), it is time to say goodbye. According to the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, the average older "second refrigerator" uses about 750-1000 kilowatt-hours every year, which amounts to between \$97 and \$130 on your electric bill. Today's ENERGY STAR® refrigerators cost about \$40 a year to run.

Whether you are ditching your second fridge or replacing your main fridge, keep the following tips in mind:

- When you buy a new ENERGY STAR® refrigerator, consider buying from a retailer that has a Responsible Appliance Disposal (RAD) program.
- Contact your city's waste management division to see if they pick up appliances such as fridges and their policies on recycling these types of appliances.
- Call your local scrap metal recycler.