



STEM @ Work

Last month students from the Ida Baker High School Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) program paid a visit to LCEC to learn about potential careers in the utility industry. Experiencing proper safety protocol and equipment was a prelude to an exciting ride in the bucket truck. The group also spoke to dozens of employees about job opportunities, internships, and how an electric company works. Students provided feedback about the visits which included comments such as, "I learned so much about what MY electric company actually does. I'm proud to have LCEC as my provider!" and "I was surprised to learn LCEC has an app that helps you reduce your electric bill."

LCEC has been a supporter of the STEM@Work program for several years and provides mentoring, scholarships, and funding to ensure our future work force is strong!



Employees wish CEO Dennie Hamilton a fond farewell upon his recent retirement.

Register for special needs shelter before an emergency happens



Special Needs Shelters are designed to meet the needs of people who require assistance beyond what is provided at a general shelter during emergencies. When there is no other sheltering option with family or friends, these shelters provide, to the extent possible under emergency conditions, an environment that can sustain health until shelter is no longer needed.

Review qualifications and register early.

- Lee County – www.LeeEOC.com
- Collier County – www.colliergov.net
- Charlotte County – www.charlottecountyfl.com
- Hendry County – Contact Emergency Management
- Sanibel/Captiva – www.mysanibel.com

CUSTOMER SURVEY WINNERS

If you receive an LCEC customer survey, return it for a chance to win \$100. Last month's winners were John Murray of Cape Coral, Michael Deangelis of Marco Island, Iris Viera of Lehigh Acres, and Reginald Howard of Immokalee.

LCEC is a nonprofit corporation. Established in 1940, LCEC delivers power to more than 221,208 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.loec.net

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



Go paperless and save more than just paper

When you enroll in paperless billing through SmartHub you are saving time, postage, and space. You are also saving the environment. More than 60,000 LCEC customers have already made the switch!

Saving a ton of paper also saves:

- 17 trees
- 380 gallons of oil
- 4,000 kilowatts of energy
- 7,000 gallons of water

*source: recycling.revolution.com

12 YEARS STRAIGHT WITHOUT A RATE INCREASE

LCEC electric rates are below the national average and among the lowest in Florida. Employees work hard to provide the best possible price for reliable service. Customers are paying less for electricity now than they were in 2008!



Celebrating 80 years!!
JANUARY 2020

LCEC NEWS



Coming to your mailbox in March – Trustee Election Ballot

As an electric cooperative member, you elect your Board of Trustees members. It is one of the benefits that makes a cooperative different from investor-owned or government-run municipal utilities.

Board members are customers. The Trustee seats for Lehigh Acres and North Fort Myers will be on the ballot in March. District seat terms are staggered to allow for continuity on the Board.

The Nominating Committee, comprised of LCEC customers from throughout the service territory, will interview candidates in January. Committee members will recommend candidates 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.

Going out on a limb FOR SAFETY AND RELIABILITY



Trees are essential in providing future generations with a cleaner, greener place to live when planted in the right location. The LCEC vegetation management programs help to prevent contact between tree limbs and electric facilities, which can cause power outages and unsafe conditions. LCEC maintains vegetation clearances on the distribution and transmission lines to and from the substation.

Customers are responsible for maintaining trees and vegetation outside of utility easements and around the secondary lines and service drops that lead to the home or business.

Two reasons to hire a licensed tree trimmer

- Professionals know where to trim and prune to ensure your tree is not harmed.
- Trimming trees around power lines is risky. Only qualified tree trimmers should work around or close to power lines.



Reporting an outage made easier

We work hard to minimize outages. If an outage does occur and you call the automated LCEC system, we can identify your location using your phone number. Avoid the need to speak to a representative by updating your contact information in SmartHub. You can also report an outage in SmartHub without making a phone call.



Celebrating 80 years!!

LCEC was incorporated in 1940 when no other utility wanted to serve parts of Southwest Florida. A small group of residents, led by George Judd and Homer Welch, worked to fulfil the requirements of forming an electric cooperative. LCEC began with 15 miles of power lines and 158 customers and has grown to more than 8,000 miles of line and 220,000 customers.

Suspect a SCAM?

If you have any doubt, delete the email, hang up the phone, or close the door. It's best to contact LCEC through our website or the phone number on your bill. Never use the number a suspected scammer provides. Visit utilitiesunited.org to review common scams!



As a cooperative member you earn equity

Cooperative members invest in the electric system and are allocated equity annually. This reduces the need for costly loans or bonds that would increase electric rates. When the financial health of the organization allows, the Board of Trustees are able to approve a retirement of equity, and it can be returned to active and inactive members.

Over the years, LCEC has retired and returned more than **\$279 million in equity.**

LIGHT THE WAY TO SAVINGS

Your home probably has more than **30 light fixtures.** That could equate to approximately **\$150 to \$300 in energy cost a year.**

Switching to an LED bulb can result in up to **70 percent energy savings,** and it lasts **25 times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs.**



If you upgrade just **15 incandescent light bulbs,** which produce heat, you can save about **\$50 per year!**

The SHOCKING FACTS

Up to **60%** of your body is water, and water conducts electricity, making it easy for electricity to travel through the body.



300 fatalities

are caused by electricity in the workplace

4,000 people



are injured at home annually from electricity

IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH

It only takes a 12-watt electric razor or 1000-watt hair dryer to cause a fatality.