COEXISTING with NATURE

LCEC serves multiple cities and highly populated areas. Energizing less populated areas throughout Southwest Florida often presents interesting wildlife experiences during the workday.

Baby bear holding his own safety check meeting at the bumper of an LCEC truck in the field.

The local Pritchett eagle cam captured this girl enjoying the view from an avian protected utility structure.

These usually unfriendly goats made a new friend of this LCEC field inspector.

Employees pay it forward!

VOLUNTEER & PAY IT FORWARD LCEC

It's common for LCEC employees to give of their time, talent and heart to energize the community! In an effort to support this passion for philanthropy, LCEC designed the Pay It Forward Program in 2016 to encourage volunteerism and support employees' efforts to give to their favorite qualifying non-profit organization. Employees tracking volunteer hours up to 100 hours earn up to $100 for the charity of their choice. Each year since the program's inception, several remarkable LCEC employees have surpassed the annual 500+ hour mark of community service. Five 500 Club members were recognized through a Zoom celebration last month for donating their time to the following organizations:

United Way of Lee, Collier, Hendry, Glades and Okeechobee Counties, Parker's Rainbow Bridge Animal Rescue, McGregor Clinic, Odyssey of the Mind, Calendar Girls, Guns N' Hoses, Healthy Kidz of Tomorrow, Valerie's House, Alliance for the Arts, and Lee Health Foundation

Customer Survey Winners

If you receive an LCEC customer survey, return it for a chance to win $100. Last month's winners were Kevin Zaremba of Marco Island, William Muller of Marco Island, and William Baker of Marco Island.

Celebrating 80 years

When no other utility wanted to serve parts of Southwest Florida, residents worked with the government to form LCEC, an electric distribution cooperative. Members invest in the system through monthly electric bills. LCEC does not generate power, and approximately 70 percent of revenue goes to the power supplier. The additional 30 percent is utilized for operations, system improvements, equity, and taxes. Over the past 80 years, LCEC has grown to be one of the largest and strongest electric distribution cooperatives in the nation.

LCEC is a nonprofit corporation. Established in 1940, LCEC delivers power to more than 225,017 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

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

Like us! facebook LCEC
facebook.com/LCECSWFL

National Cooperative Month

What is a Cooperative?

A Cooperative is an organization which is owned and run jointly by its members. This means it is not owned by any shareholders like most for-profit companies. Cooperatives are driven by values and are in business to serve its members rather than for profit.

What are the benefits of a Cooperative?

Cooperatives are run by and for its members, so the profits generated stay in the local community. Cooperatives offer tools for self-help through various programs, and members receive equity for their patronage.

Who is LCEC?

LCEC is one of more than 850 not-for-profit electric distribution cooperatives located throughout 46 states and serving 75 percent of land mass in the nation. Our values are deep-rooted in the community, we pay local taxes, and support community services and causes. For 80 years, our focus has been on delivering reliable electricity and quality service at a reasonable rate.

LCEC PEOPLE. POWER. POSSIBILITIES.

Celebrating 80 years!!
OCTOBER 2020

LCEC NEWS

ARE YOU
Interested in applying for a BOARD OF TRUSTEE POSITION?

LCEC is governed by a 10-member Board of Trustees elected by all member. 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 it was founded. They maintain strategic direction and represent the best interest of all members.

Applications for the Sanibel/Captiva/Pine Island, Marco Island/Goodland/Everglades City, and Cape Coral seats will be available in November. All accountholders 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.

LCEC rates remain stable while other consumer prices rise

This is the twelfth consecutive year that LCEC has not increased electric rates. The Labor Department recently reported that prices for many consumer essentials has risen as a result of the pandemic. Energy prices have increased 5.1 percent, and the cost of meat, poultry, fish, and eggs has increased 12.7 percent since last year. At the same time, LCEC has worked hard to maintain efficient processes and manage costs so customers can enjoy the same competitive rates today as they have since 2008.

SmartHub

Take advantage of the tools that can help you manage your energy usage and keep your electric bill in check. Enroll at lcec.net or download the LCEC SmartHub app on your mobile device.

- Check daily usage.
- Set usage alerts.
- Compare month-to-month usage.
- Compare weather impact.

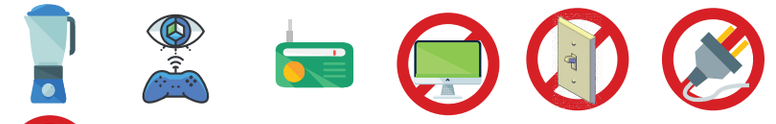
lcec.net

IMPROVING POWER QUALITY in Lehigh

Reliability is always at the forefront of what we do. LCEC's substation services team spent much of the summer busy at the Alabama Substation and the Lehigh South Substation in Lehigh Acres adding 138kv capacitor banks to improve power quality on LCEC's south system.

ELECTRIC SAFETY
ELECTRICITY & WATER

Keep electrical appliances, toys, and radios away from water unless they are battery operated.



Be sure outlets near sources have ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCI's) to protect you against shock.

When you are wet, standing in water, or have wet hands, never touch electric cords, switches, or appliances.

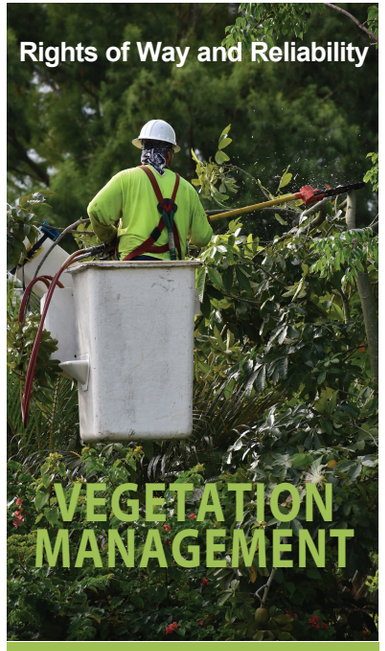
WE POWER LIFE

Remember to Turn the Ceiling Fan Off

Ceiling fans do not actually cool the air in a room; they just cool people.

When a fan is on, it is circulating air inside of a room. You feel the breeze across your skin, which makes you feel cooler. However, the temperature of the room hasn't actually changed at all!

To save on energy costs, remember to turn off the ceiling fan in an empty room. No one is there to benefit from the breeze, and you will save money.



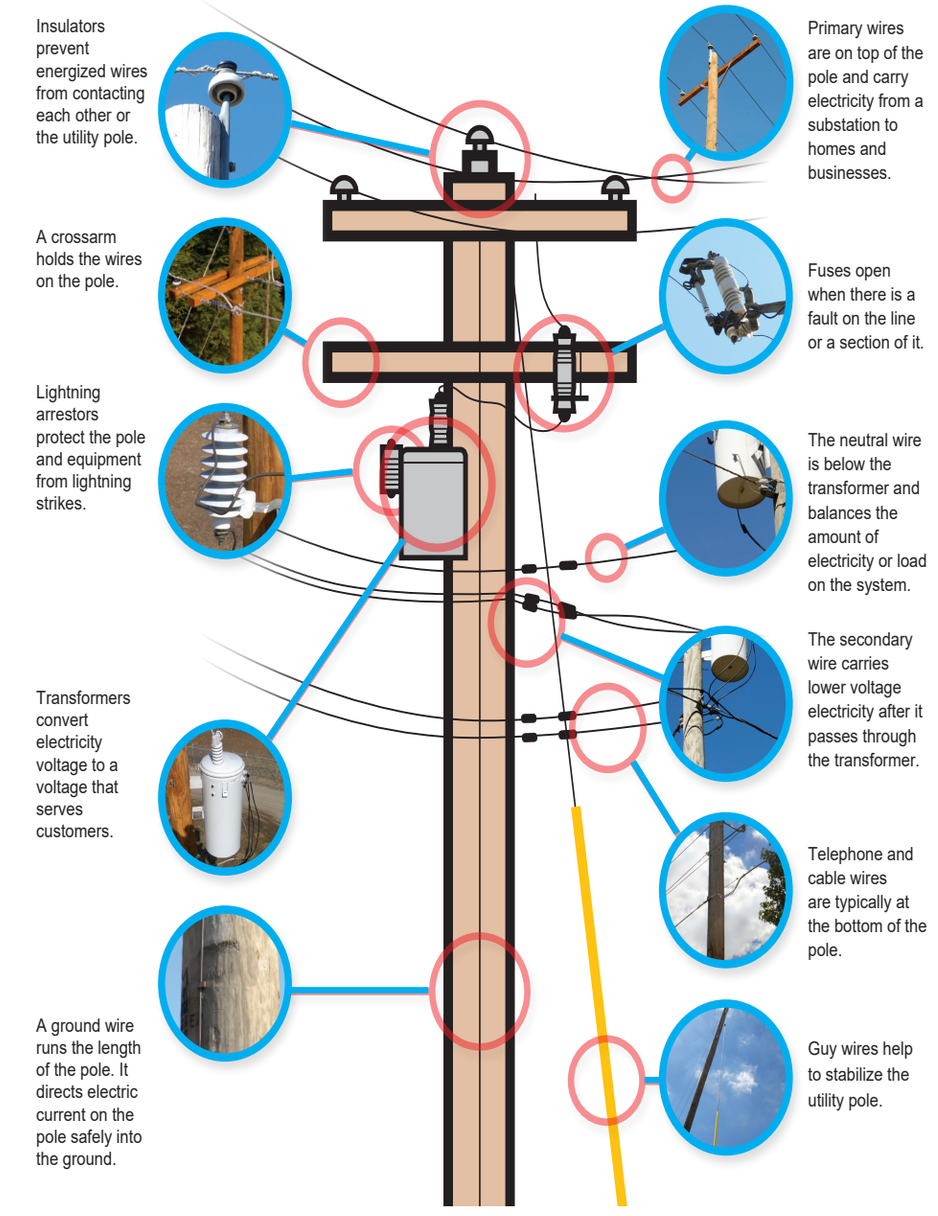
The LCEC Vegetation Management Program is essential in providing safe and reliable electric service. Trees and branches growing in or near power lines can cause fires, safety issues, or interruptions in service. That is why LCEC works hard to ensure that rights-of-way are cleared regularly of trees and brush to help reduce any hazards.

LCEC urges all customers to consider electric lines when planting, trimming, or removing trees. Coming into contact with a power line can lead to serious injuries or death. If a tree touching a power line is burning or sparking, please contact LCEC immediately at 239-656-2300.

Visit www.lcec.net for more Vegetation Management information and tips.

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.

Rain Can Affect Your Energy Usage

Summer days with no rain can cause your AC to work harder. Rain cools down the outside air. When it does not rain, your AC has to work harder to push heat from inside your home to the outside and cool the air inside. This can be a major contributor to the high bills.

When It Rains

Your Roof Cools Off

Your Attic Cools Off

Your House Cools Off

Your AC Works Less