

# Get Ready for 2020 Hurricane Season

## Hurricane Preparedness Week

- Sunday, May 3**

**Determine Your Risk**  
Find out what types of wind and water hazards could happen where you live, and start to prepare on how to handle them.
- Monday, May 4**

**Develop an Evacuation Plan**  
Figure out where you would go and how you would get there if you make the decision to evacuate.
- Wednesday, May 6**

**Get an Insurance Checkup**  
Make sure you have enough homeowners insurance to cover a repair or replace your home.
- Friday, May 8**

**Help Your Neighbor**  
Preparing with your neighbor can make the time less stressful. Help collect supplies together, assist them with evacuation, and check on them when the storm is done.
- Tuesday, May 5**

**Assemble Disaster Supplies**  
Stock up on non-perishable food, water, medicine, cash, battery-powered radio, flashlights, and gas up your vehicle.
- Thursday, May 7**

**Strengthen Your Home**  
Trim trees, find a safe location for your vehicle, and board up your windows to properly strengthen your home.
- Saturday, May 9**

**Complete a Written Plan**  
Making a check list will have you more prepared and less likely to panic.

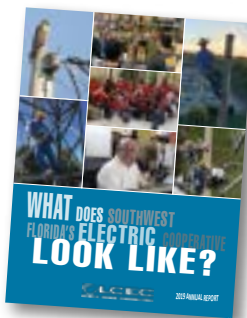
## CUSTOMER SURVEY WINNERS

If you receive an LCEC customer survey, return it for a chance to win \$100. Last month's winners were Larry Bryan of Punta Gorda, Nicole Decker of Cape Coral, and James Ziegler of Cape Coral.

# LCEC Annual Meeting

The 2020 Annual meeting was unusual due to COVID19 and was held as a virtual meeting. Customers were welcome to participate on location at LCEC headquarters by dialing in. Board of Trustees President Russell Priddy touched on the state of the business with a focus on how employees have done all that is expected of them to maintain the delivery of reliable power under challenging conditions. New Chief Executive Officer Denise Vidal included current operational activities in addition to a state of the organization. The Trustee election results were announced with Larry Turbeville, Rick Joyce, and Richard Pritchett serving another term.

If you would like to view the LCEC annual report, access it at [www.lcec.net](http://www.lcec.net) or request a printed version at [pr@lcec.net](mailto:pr@lcec.net).



LCEC is a nonprofit corporation. Established in 1940, LCEC delivers power to more than 222,459 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)

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



## Celebrating 80 years

LCEC was incorporated in 1940 when no other utility wanted to serve parts of Southwest Florida. Initially, infrastructure was built to serve members in North Fort Myers, Sanibel, Captiva, and Pine Island. By 1951, service had been extended as far south as Chokoloskee Island. In 1953, LCEC acquired the Everglades City Power Plant from Collier County and a new line was extended from Carnestown to serve Marco Island. In 1955, members from Lehigh Acres began purchasing power from LCEC, and in 1958, power was connected to the first six model homes in Cape Coral.



Celebrating 80 years!!  
MAY 2020

# LCEC NEWS

## COVID Statement

**Throughout our 80 years of history we have overcome many adversities and risen above a variety of challenges, threats, and emergencies. We have always been prepared.**

Year-round, we conduct routine maintenance, inspections, and upgrades so the LCEC grid can be as strong as possible. Our business operates around-the-clock, and we know how important it is to have a pandemic response plan. Our preparation and quick action positioned LCEC to continue to provide customers with the power they need.

Our two-pronged strategy is always to focus on wellness while also planning for continuous electric service. To ensure this, we exercised an abundance of caution:

- We limited access to the work environments
- Allowed employees to work remotely where possible
- Temporarily suspended non-essential visits to customers' homes and businesses
- Suspending business travel and training
- Encouraged social distancing

LCEC is committed to doing everything in our power to continue delivering reliable electricity and quality service at a competitive price to our members. We understand this is a difficult time for our customers and we are here to help in any way that we can.

## ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

May is National Electrical Safety Month. Electrical hazards can lead to property loss, injuries, fires, and fatalities, but can easily be avoided.



### Indoors:

- Invest in outlet caps/covers. Plastic caps plug directly into power outlets and make them inaccessible to kids.
- Keep furry friends safe too! Be sure that all plugs are completely in their wall sockets. Exposed prongs can hurt their paws, nose, or mouth if contacted.

### Outdoors:

- Never touch downed power lines. Call your local utility if you see one.
- Watch for overhead lines when using ladders, trimming trees, flying kites, or working on roofs.

**Any dangerous power conditions should be reported to LCEC at 239-656-2300 or 800-282-1643 or through SmartHub.**



Protecting you and your loved ones is imperative. Find more safety tips on [lcec.net](http://lcec.net).

## 6 Energy Tips for Renters

**Mind the thermostat** - Living in Florida means using your AC almost year round! To save on your energy bill, LCEC suggests setting the thermostat higher when no one is home or when sleeping. The rare time that it is cold, use the same principle but in reverse.

**Go Programmable** - It is hard to remember to adjust your thermostats manually. Programmable thermostats make it easy. If set correctly, you can save up to \$150 or more a year! Before running out and getting one, make sure your landlord approves.

**Stop Air Leaks** - Talk to your landlord about filling in small gaps around doors, windows, and plumbing penetrations that can be a major source of energy loss. Sealing these small air leaks could shave off one-fifth of your energy bill!

**Manage your windows and window coverings** - Your AC may be working harder than it needs to. Invest in medium- or heavy-weight curtains to block the sun and keep windows from heating cooler indoor air. In the winter, curtains keep the warmth inside.

**Look for Energy Wasters** - Always wash full loads of dishes and laundry to minimize the number of times the water is run. Switch to the microwave. The oven uses more energy and releases extra heat into the house.

**Ask Landlords and others for help** - Consider speaking with your landlord about ways to save on energy costs and add appeal to their properties. Some topics include installing better insulation or energy-efficient windows.

## You have the POWER TO SHARE

Not just during trying time like these, but year-round there are people in our community who struggle. LCEC's Power to Share program is a United Way community partnership offering short-term emergency assistance funds to customers who need help. You can give or receive help by calling United Way 211 or visiting <https://www.unitedwaylee.org/power-to-share/>.



## Easiest and Safest Generator Connection



Portable electric generators are used by many Southwest Florida residents to power their homes during power outages. Although convenient, they can create hazardous conditions if not used safely. LCEC GenerLink is a safer and more reliable alternative to the use of extension cords. It's a safe connection from the electric meter directly to the generator.

### Extra Benefits

- Run nearly any number of appliances up to the capacity of the generator.
- It keeps your generator outside where it is safe.
- Automatically disconnect from the utility grid, eliminating dangerous backfeed.

There are two types of GenerLink™ available to LCEC customers to purchase with a seven-year manufacturer's warranty. Visit the GenerLink™ section of [LCEC.net](http://LCEC.net) for FAQs, pricing, and more. Call 656-2300 to schedule installation.



## YOUR LIFE IS ON THE LINE

Be aware of overhead power lines when trimming trees.

Request to have your trees trimmed. Visit [lcec.net](http://lcec.net) for more information.




LOOK UP AND LIVE

## ELECTRIC SAFETY ELECTRICAL FIRES



-  **LIGHTBULBS** can reach 300° and are an overlooked fire hazard
-  **OVERLOADED OUTLETS** or faulty wires can also cause fires
-  **EXTENSION CORDS** extension cords should be used that match the amperage of the appliance
-  **CORDS** cords should never run under rugs or furniture

**DON'T WAIT FOR AN ACCIDENT. Take notice of any of these dangers.**

-  Blown fuses or tripping circuit breakers
-  A tingle when you touch an electrical appliance
-  A burning smell from an appliance or wiring
-  Flickering lights

## Prefer to pay with a credit card?

You have many payment options for your electric bill. If you choose to pay with a debit card, you can do so online or on your mobile device through SmartHub or PayNow.

Be sure to check out all of the LCEC payment options at [www.lcec.net](http://www.lcec.net).

SMART management. SMART life. **SmartHub.**