

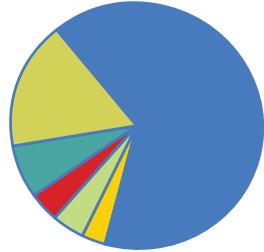
# How do your bill payments make an impact?

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, LCEC operates at cost and does not generate revenue.

Your bill payments cover the cost of operating the business. Any margins that remain after expenses are allocated to members as equity.

## How your bill adds up:

65%	Cost of Power (FPL)
17%	Operating Expenses
7%	Depreciation
4%	Regulatory Expenses
4%	Margins After Interest
3%	Interest Expense



# Fishing for fun and funds

The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary LCEC Fishing Tournament went virtual for the second year in a row due to social distancing guidelines. Anglers recorded more than 120 fish through the FishDonkey app and released them to grow bigger for next year's tournament. Approximately \$50,000 was raised for United Way thanks to sponsors, anglers, donors, and volunteers. Along with the catch-and-release tournament, an online auction and raffle was held. In addition, this month, a car donated by Family Thrift Centers was raffled off to a lucky recipient to wrap up the event.



LCEC employees also held a United Way Golf Tournament and a Goblin Gallop 5K Race in October, so watch next month's newsletter for results!!



LCEC is a nonprofit corporation. Established in 1940, LCEC delivers power to more than 231,423 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 awards eight local organizations with Environmental Funding Awards



In 2013, LCEC developed a program empowering local environmentally-focused organizations to apply for funding for projects aimed at celebrating, educating, protecting, and preserving our precious environment. Applications are accepted twice a year in March and September. Interested organizations can visit the Environment page of [lcec.net](http://lcec.net) to learn more about the program and download an application.

### Congratulations to the eight lucky recipients of the September 2021 LCEC Environmental Funding Award:

- ArtFest Fort Myers Recycling
- Cape Coral Wildlife Trust
- Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife
- Monofilament Busters
- Cypress Cove Landkeepers
- Audubon of Southwest Florida
- Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary
- Future Forestry

Since the program's inception, LCEC has been honored to award more than \$186,000 to local organizations.



facebook.com/LCECSWFL

### Subscribe to the LCEC YouTube Channel!

Visit [www.youtube.com/c/LeeCountyElectricCooperativeLCECSWFL/featured](http://www.youtube.com/c/LeeCountyElectricCooperativeLCECSWFL/featured)

and check out LCEC news, safety tips, shared content, and more! Check out the other LCEC social media channels too!

# LCEC NEWS

NOVEMBER 2021

## LCEC Board of Trustee applications now being accepted



Any LCEC customer/member who is a resident of Cape Coral, Lehigh Acres, or Immokalee/Ave Maria can apply for a Board of Trustee seat in the 2022 Trustee Election.

All applicants are considered and interviewed by the Nominating Committee. Each year there are three seats up for election. Terms are staggered to provide continuity on the Board. This year, an additional seat is on the ballot due to a Board member retirement. The seat was filled by appointment and in accordance with LCEC bylaws, it is up for election on the next election ballot. Potential qualifications for nominated candidates include:

- Business experience
- Ability to interpret operating and financial reports
- Community leadership
- Sensitivity to member concerns, attitudes, and issues
- Integrity and minimal possibility for conflict of interest
- Availability to attend monthly Board and Committee meetings
- Capability to contribute to Board discussions and decisions

If you would like to be considered for a position on the Board of Trustees, contact LCEC Public Relations at [pr@lcec.net](mailto:pr@lcec.net). Applications accepted through January 4, 2022.

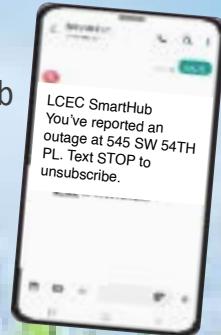
### 2022 Seats for elections:

- District 2, Seat 1 – Cape Coral
- District 2, Seat 3 – Cape Coral
- District 4 – Lehigh Acres
- District 6 – Immokalee, Ave Maria

# Introducing outage texting SmartHub

Reporting outages has never been easier.

- Use your registered SmartHub account to get started
- To report an outage, text **OUT** to 844-248-9817



[www.lcec.net](http://www.lcec.net)



## A STRONGER COMMUNITY – the cooperative way

Electric cooperatives serve 42 million people in 48 states. Together they own and maintain 2.7 million miles of the nation's electric distribution lines. LCEC has more than 8,000 miles of line throughout Southwest Florida, and we are one of the largest employers in the region. We build communities through our dedication to providing a service and also through contributions to the economy and philanthropic endeavors. We work here; we live here; and we raise our families here. It is the cooperative way.

## Power transformer on the move



A 75,715-pound power transformer was delivered to one of the LCEC substations so it can safely and securely await its new home in a new substation that will serve the growing needs in part of the southern LCEC service territory. New power transformers often take up to a year to be manufactured and delivered, and good planning ensures equipment will be available when needed. The transformer will also serve as a spare if needed on the LCEC system in an emergency situation until it finds its permanent home. The lifespan of a power transformer, which will serve approximately 8,000 customers, is 45 years with consistent maintenance.

Prior to energizing the equipment, it will be filled with 3,500 gallons of oil for insulation and cooling. Once dressed-out and connected to the grid, it will weigh 134,195 pounds!



## Safe Generator Connection

GenerLink™ offered by LCEC eliminates the use of extension cords and other hazardous connections by providing a safe connection from the electric meter directly to the generator.

### Benefits of GenerLink™

- Easiest and safest generator connection. Allows customers to run any appliances up to the capacity of their generator.
- Easily installed behind the electric meter by a certified LCEC technician.
- Connection at the meter keeps the portable generator outside where it is safe.
- Seven-year manufacturer's warranty.

Order yours today!

[www.lcec.net/my-home/products-and-services/generlink](http://www.lcec.net/my-home/products-and-services/generlink)

239-656-2300

## Plug into holiday safety

While staying safe around electricity is important year-round, more than one hundred fires happen per year due to issues with decorative and holiday lights.

**Inspect electrical decorations for damage before use.** Cracked or damaged sockets, loose or bare wires, may cause a serious shock or start a fire.

**Do not overload electrical outlets.**

This is a common cause of holiday fires. Only plug one high-wattage cord into each outlet at a time.

**Never connect more than three strings of lights.** More could potentially blow a fuse, or worse yet, cause a fire.

**Protect cords from damage.** Never pinch cords, hide them under furniture, place them near a heat source, or secure them with nails or staples.

**Unplug when not in use.** Never leave holiday lights on when not home or while sleeping. It is estimated that half of all home fires happen between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.

## 2021 HOLIDAY HOURS

Thanksgiving: closed November 25 and 26, 2021  
 Christmas: closed December 23 and 24, 2021  
 New Year's: closed December 31, 2021

Conduct business through SmartHub anytime... holidays included!

## Lighten your electric bill with energy-efficient light bulbs



Little changes can make a big difference when it comes to your electric usage. If you haven't made the switch from traditional incandescent bulbs to LEDs, now is the time! Since lighting accounts for approximately 15 percent of your electric usage, switching to energy-efficient LED lighting saves the average household upwards of \$225 a year! The cost of LEDs has dropped sustainably since they first entered the market, so they are an affordable investment that will save you money in the long-run.

### LED factoids:

- LEDs use between 85-90 percent less energy while lasting up to 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs. This gives LEDs a life expectancy of 30,000 to 50,000 hours of run time.
- LEDs come in a variety of watts including 40, 60, 75 and 100. They also come in a variety of colors.
- LEDs are available for both indoor and outdoor use. There is even solar-powered LED lighting for outdoor use.

For more ways to save, visit [lcec.net](http://lcec.net).

## Harness the POWER of the SUN



The LCEC Net Metering program allows LCEC customers with a renewable generation system (RGS) to offset all or part of their energy use.

Customers must do their homework before getting started with the LCEC Net Metering Program:

1. Conduct research to evaluate systems and vendors.
2. Review the LCEC Net Metering Guidelines.
3. Complete a net metering application and interconnection agreement.
4. Apply for local government permitting and inspection.
5. Once the PV system is installed, provide inspection documentation to LCEC.
6. LCEC will install a bidirectional meter and provide the okay to operate the net metering system.

Energy generated by the customer will be deducted from the energy delivered by LCEC. The net energy will be utilized for the billing calculation. Any energy banked will be carried forward as a credit to the end of the calendar year and payable at the avoided wholesale power cost.

**Please Note:** Customers are responsible for the minimum customer charge to support the cost of infrastructure needed when not generating their own energy. All taxes, governmental fees, and power cost adjustments apply. In addition, a kW demand charge may apply.

## EQUITY



a benefit of membership

Like all electric cooperatives, LCEC operates at cost with funds provided through member rates. Since cooperatives are not-for-profit, any revenue remaining after expenses is shared with members. These margins are not in the form of cash but are allocated to members as equity credits in proportion to the amount of electricity purchased each year. Equity funds cooperatives in order to build and maintain the electric facilities needed to serve members.

When financially feasible, a portion of equity may be retired and returned to active and inactive members. When approved by the Board of Trustees, a percentage of margins is retired and a credit is applied to active members' bills and a check is mailed to inactive members. Over the years, LCEC has returned more than \$303 million to active and inactive members.

## Customer Survey Winners



If you receive an LCEC customer survey, return it for a chance to win \$100.

Last month's winners were Anjanette Douglass of North Fort Myers, Brian Bradley of Cape Coral, and Victory Christian Center Network of Lehigh Acres.