

Living United

Throughout the year, LCEC and its employees raise and contribute funds, volunteer, and help allocate campaign earnings to local agencies. Along with leadership involvement, the LCEC funds contributed in the most recent campaign totaled more than \$205,000. These dollars will help fund more than 96 local agencies and 296 programs in our communities. It's another way that LCEC energizes our community.



LIVE UNITED
LIVE UNITED! CONTRIBUTE UNITED!
ENCOURAGE UNITED! CARE UNITED!



FUTURE FORESTRY – for a sustainable environment

LCEC awards funding to local agencies and programs aimed at sustainability. The Future Forestry received funds in 2020 and 2021 and is planting roots that are making a big impact!

- 50 Students**
- 10 Shovels**
- 4 Wheelbarrows**
- 40 Pairs of Gloves**
- 400 Trees Planted**

"The community education program has many benefits," said Executive Director Russ Ringland. "We are educating 50 students at a time about rebuilding the forestry canopy while also instilling pride and a connection to their hometown. Our efforts are due, in part, to the support from LCEC and their focus on a sustainable community." To donate or get involved, visit futureforestry.org.

Save the DATE!

25th Annual Fishing Tournament
September 18

Golf Tournament
October 23

Goblin Gallop 5k
October 30

Customer Survey WINNERS

If you receive an LCEC customer survey, return it for a chance to win \$100. Last month's winners were Deane Dotson of North Fort Myers, Angelita Tanner of Immokalee, and Sharon Davies of Cape Coral.

LCEC is a nonprofit corporation. Established in 1940, LCEC delivers power to more than 228,523 customers. LCEC News is published monthly for customers by the Public Relations Department,
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Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn, Twitter icons.

Like us! facebook.com/LCECSWFL

Are you prepared for storm season?

Storm season begins June 1. The National Weather Service advises a week of prep to be ready for anything Mother Nature sends our way.

- May 9: Determine your risk**
Asses risks for dangers like storm surge, flooding, and airborne debris.
 - May 10: Develop an evacuation plan**
Where will you go and how will you get there? Include your pets.
 - May 11: Assemble disaster supplies**
Include water, food, medicine, batteries, phone chargers, cash, and vehicle fuel.
 - May 12: Get an insurance check-up**
Bring along any home/vehicle insurance documents if you evacuate.
 - May 13: Strengthen your home**
Clear yard of debris and loose items. Safely prune tree limbs.
 - May 14: Help your neighbor**
Keep an eye on neighbors, especially the elderly. Lend a hand.
 - May 15: Complete a written plan**
Practice the plan with loved ones ahead of storm season.
- Source: National Weather Service*

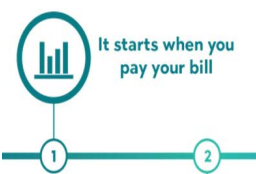
Visit lcec.net to download the LCEC Hurricane Guide for a complete guide for before, during, and after a storm.

WHAT IS EQUITY?

In finance, equity is ownership of assets that may have debt or liabilities attached to them. The same is true for electric cooperatives. Members invest in assets, such as utility infrastructure and equipment, through their monthly payments.

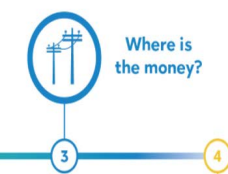
1. Customers pay the electric bill

Electric usage is measured throughout the year. Bill payments include day-to-day operation expenses and system improvements.



2. Allocations

Excess revenue or annual margins are allocated to members proportionally by the amount of electricity used throughout the year. LCEC allocated \$18 million to members this year.



3. Where's the money?

Equity is not money sitting in the bank. It is invested in the infrastructure to meet the current and growing demand for electricity.



4. Retirement of equity

Retirement, or return of equity occurs under certain conditions. The Board of Trustees are determine if a retirement will adversely impact the LCEC financial condition.

Plugging into Safety

Happy National Electrical Safety Month

Electrical safety awareness and education will prevent electrical fires, injuries, and fatalities.

Outlets and Plugs

- Loose-fitting plugs can overheat and lead to fire.
- Never force a plug into an outlet if it doesn't fit.
- Always unplug appliances before attempting to work on them.

CORDS

- Make sure all power cords and extension cords are not frayed or cracked.
- Do not place cords in high-traffic areas or under carpets, rugs, or furniture.
- Extension cords should only be used on a temporary basis, not as permanent household wiring.



Although May is National Electrical Safety Month, it is important to be mindful every day when working with or around all things electrical! Visit lcec.net to learn more.

SHOPPING FOR a GENERATOR?

DO YOUR HOMEWORK

That wattage of your generator is important because it determines how many devices you can power. According to Consumer Reports (CR), the typical home requires 5,000 watts to cover the basics.

1. Decide what you can't live without when the power is out. Then add up the wattages to get an idea of how much power you will need.
2. A refrigerator typically takes 600 watts to run; a sump pump requires 750 to 1,500 watts; and lights can require from 60 to 600 watts (depending on how many you power and the size of your home).



PORTABLE GENERATOR SAFETY

Portable generators can be dangerous since they can produce carbon monoxide. Never run indoors or in an enclosed space. Keep them at least 20 feet from your home when operating. Some newer models feature a built-in CO sensor that triggers an automatic shut-off feature. Other advanced models are designed to emit less poisonous fumes.

Why We Are Different

The Cooperative Experience



Cooperatives are driven by values and are in business to serve members rather than for profit. This business model is different from investor-owned utilities, which typically share profits with investors globally. People and businesses receiving electricity from LCEC are more than just customers, they are members too. Like other electric cooperatives, LCEC is owned by those we serve.

An important value that Cooperatives keep close is giving back to the community. LCEC will always do our best to provide quality services, competitive rates, and assure employment opportunities for local people.



Conduct a home energy audit and start saving now!

A qualified LCEC energy advisor will conduct a FREE virtual or onsite energy survey of your home. Visit <https://www.lcec.net/energy-efficiency/energy-survey> for more info. The energy survey includes:

- Temperature check of the AC system, refrigerator and water heater
- Weather stripping and caulking inspection around doors and windows
- Review of thermostat settings
- Basic inspection of air filters and the duct system when accessible
- Basic inspection of attic insulation when accessible
- Profile of electric usage

To request an Energy Survey:

1. Log in to SmartHub.
2. Select "Report An Outage/Inquiry," located in the top right-hand corner.
3. Select "Other Issues/General Inquiry."
4. Select "Home Energy Survey." Complete the questionnaire.

How to read your LCEC bill

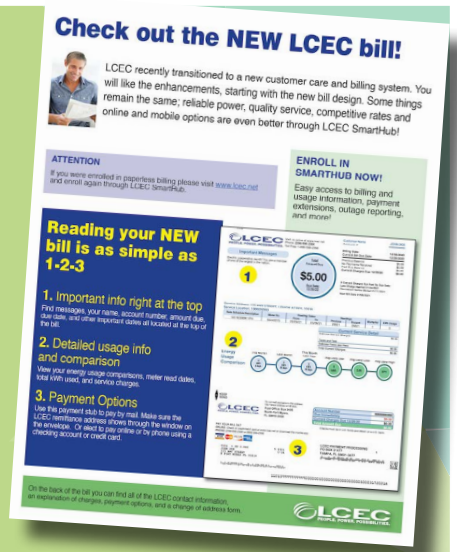
Your LCEC bill is divided into three sections to make reviewing it easy and quick!

The first section includes important messages, your name, account number, amount due, the due date, and more!

The second section includes energy usage information, meter read dates, service charges, and total kWh used.

The third section is the pay stub if you plan to mail in your payment. Please note the list of other payment options like online or pay-by-phone using your checking account or credit card.

Visit lcec.net to find out more about how to read your LCEC bill and the benefits of enrolling in SmartHub to pay your bill!



SCAM ALERT

How to spot Sneaky Scammers

Residents and businesses are encouraged to remain aware and know the facts. Scammers aim to mislead anyone who isn't ready to call their bluff.

Scammers might:

- Pretend to be an LCEC representative to get into your home. All LCEC employees and contractors carry a photo identification badge and can provide work documents with corporate contact information. Ask to see proof, and call LCEC to verify if you are in doubt.

- Solicit personal information over the telephone or through the mail on behalf of LCEC. DO NOT share personal or financial information unless YOU initiated the call.

- Request immediate cash, "gift card," or debit card payment in person. DO NOT purchase a debit card under threat of service disconnection, and NEVER meet someone demanding in-person bill payment.

If something does not feel right, customers should contact LCEC immediately at 239-656-2300.