

Now accepting applications for LCEC Environmental Funding Awards



September 1 is the deadline to apply for the LCEC 2021 Environmental Funding Awards. To apply for an environmental funding award from LCEC, organizations can visit www.lcec.net/about-lcec/community-and-education/environment to download the application. Organizations must meet certain criteria to be considered for the award including being located within LCEC service territory, projects/programs related to the environment and the utility industry, and having a demonstrated need for funds. Funding is awarded twice a year with deadlines in March and September.

Recipients of March 2021 LCEC Environmental Funding Awards included:

- Audubon Western Everglades
- Future Forestry
- Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary
- Marco Island Nature Preserve & Bird Sanctuary

More than \$157,000 has been awarded since the program's inception in 2013. The LCEC Environmental Funding Award Program is one of the many ways that LCEC positively impacts and supports wildlife and the environment.

Auto Pay your stress away

Eliminate the stress of remembering to pay your electric bill with LCEC Auto Pay!



This convenient, time-saving option will automatically deduct your electric payment from your bank account on the due date of the bill. All residential and commercial customers are eligible, and registering is easy through SmartHub! Enroll in Auto Pay today and kiss your electric worries away. Learn more on lcec.net!

AFTER THE STORM



Hopefully, SWFL stays off the hurricane radar this year. If a storm comes our way, we will be ready to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. Customers are encouraged to follow these tips until LCEC can respond.

- ▼ When outside, avoid downed power lines, and be alert that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Assume any wires are energized and dangerous. Warn others to stay away, and contact the electric utility.
- ▼ Before returning to storm-damaged buildings or rooms, be sure electricity is off until damage is inspected. Never turn off power at the breaker box if there is water on the ground.
- ▼ A permanent standby generator should be professionally installed and include a transfer switch to prevent electricity from leaving your generator and going into power lines where it can kill line workers.
- ▼ If you are driving and encounter a downed power line, stay in your vehicle and warn others to stay away. Contact LCEC.
- ▼ When using a portable generator, follow all manufacturers' recommendations. Never plug it into a wall outlet or directly into the home's wiring. This could inadvertently energize the utility lines and injure yourself or others working to restore power.
- ▼ Do not use appliances that have sustained water damage.

Customer Survey WINNERS

If you receive an LCEC customer survey, return it for a chance to win \$100. Last month's winners were Dan Williams of Naples, Rebecca Smith of North Fort Myers, and Ronita Loy of Lehigh Acres.



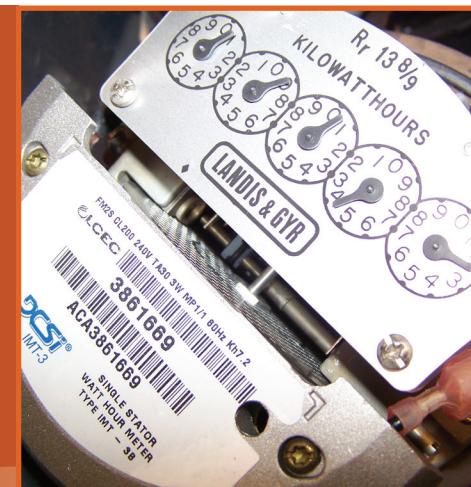
[facebook.com/LCECSWFL](https://www.facebook.com/LCECSWFL)

LCEC is a nonprofit corporation. Established in 1940, LCEC delivers power to more than 229,629 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

Meter cheaters hurt everyone

Someone stealing electricity may think it's a harmless crime, but other customers pay the price, and the thief could pay with their life. Tampering with electric facilities is dangerous, and electricity thieves may also unknowingly feed energy back into the power line. This is dangerous for linemen, who may assume the power line they are working on is de-energized. The LCEC automated meters make it easier to detect power theft, and customers can also help!

- Notify LCEC if you know of an illegally connected customer.
- Do not tamper with your meter.
- Apply for a legal connection if you do not have one.
- Report any suspicious activities to LCEC or law enforcement.



Return on your investment

As members of a not-for-profit electric cooperative, your investment through bill payment helps keep electric rates competitive. Approximately two-thirds of your monthly bill covers the cost of power that we deliver from our power supplier. The remainder of your payment is invested in business operations, critical assets, and strengthening the electric system. Member investment reduces the need for loans. As a member, you earn equity, although it isn't money until it is retired. When revenue exceeds expenses, the Board of



LCEC Key Account Exec and Cape Coral City Manager, Rob Hernandez

Trustees allocates net margins in the form of an equity credit.

This year, more than \$18 million was allocated toward active and inactive member equity. Years from now, when the LCEC financial position allows, your equity will be retired, and you will receive a return on your investment. For now, you are doing your part as a member to ensure reliable electricity, quality service, and the lowest possible rates. Thank you for your membership!

Golf Tournament October 23



<https://uw.lcec.net/SitePages/Home.aspx>



Goblin Gallop 5k October 30



25th Fishing Tournament September 18

Power to Share By Rounding Up expands on the existing Power to Share program and continues the partnership between LCEC and the United Way.

The LCEC Power to Share program was created in 2009 to assist qualifying customers in the LCEC service territory that are having difficulty making their electric bill payments.

Power to Share by Rounding Up gives customers the opportunity to "round up" their electric bill to the next dollar and make a monthly or one-time contribution. For example, a bill of \$150.25 would be rounded up to \$151.00.

Members can enroll through:

- SmartHub
- online at www.lcec.net
- by mail using the back of the bill stub
- over the phone at 239-656-2300

One-hundred percent of the donated funds are allocated to the Power to Share Program and administered by United Way to help pay the electric bill of someone in need.



DO WE HAVE YOUR PHONE NUMBER?

With storm season here, get the quickest and most convenient service by updating your account phone number in the LCEC system. Your phone number is linked to the automated system that is used to report outages. This helps identify the location of your outage easily.

Update your contact information in SmartHub or by calling 239-656-2300. Providing your email address also keeps the lines of communication open!

DO WE HAVE YOUR ADDRESS?

Even after you close your LCEC account, it is important to notify us with your address. You may be eligible to receive annual equity returns. Make it easy for us to send your check!

Energy Savings for Your Home this Summer

MIND THE THERMOSTAT

Set the thermostat at 78 degrees or higher when cooling. For every degree above 78, you can save up to 8 percent on cooling costs.



INVEST IN WINDOW COVERINGS

A medium-and heavy-weight curtain will block the sun and keep windows from heating cooler indoor air.

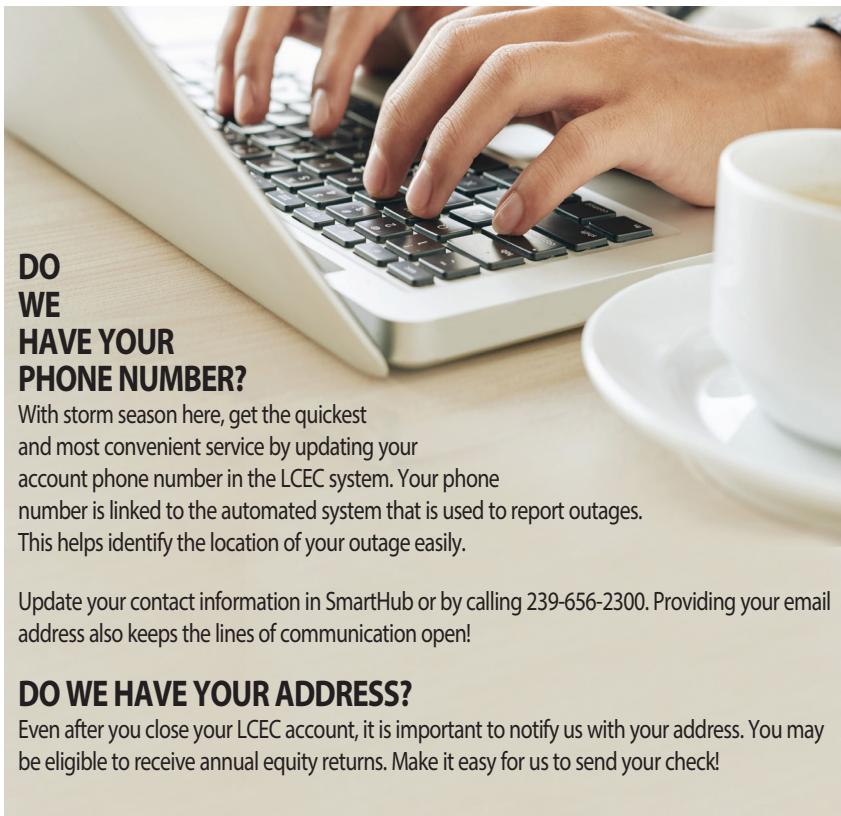
COOK SMART

Use microwaves, crock pots, and toaster ovens. A conventional oven costs more to operate and heats up your home during the summer.

LOOK FOR ENERGY WASTERS

Always wash full loads of dishes and laundry to minimize the amount of times the water is run.

Renters: Consider speaking with your landlord about ways to save on energy costs and add appeal to their properties. Some topics include installing better insulation, programmable thermostats, or energy efficient windows.



Think your bill is high?

The more you use, the more it costs.

2021 marks 13 years that LCEC has not raised rates. Employees and the leadership team are dedicated to managing costs and operating efficiently. If your bills has increased, it could be due to:

1. WEATHER:

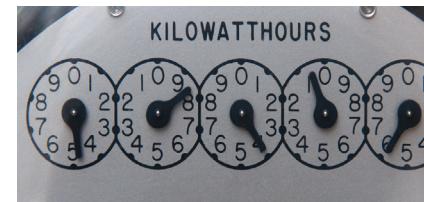
Lowering the temperature in your home when it gets hot and humid will cause your air conditioner to work harder and your electric meter to spin faster.

2. BILLING CYCLE:

Your meter is read every month. Timing varies slightly due to weekends and holidays. The number of days in your billing cycle can range from 25 to 35. Your usage may remain consistent but your bill could vary due to the number of billing days.

3. CHARGES:

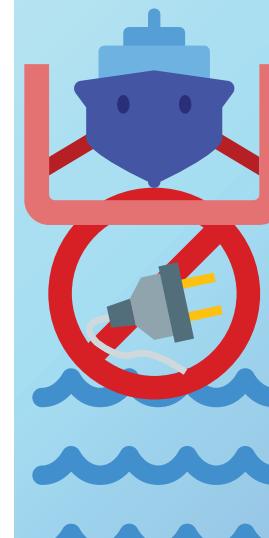
Look for charges other than usage such as past-due amounts.



ELECTRICAL SYSTEM MAINTENANCE is a year-round job

LCEC works year-round to maintain and replace poles as a means of ensuring reliable electricity to our nearly 229,000 customers. You may notice our employees and contractors in the community performing maintenance and executing projects through inspections and installations related to improved system reliability. In fact, LCEC has replaced over 2,000 poles since the 2020 storm season, including 700 poles in 2021 alone. We pride ourselves in maintaining and enhancing the infrastructure that delivers your power. These year-round activities will also help make the system storm-ready.

Water and electricity are a dangerous mix



It's the perfect time of year for water sports. Remember, potential danger isn't always visible. Be aware of unseen dangers in the water.

- Do not swim around docks with electrical equipment or boats plugged into shore power.
- If you feel electric current in the water, let others know, try to stay upright, and swim away from anything that could be energized.
- If on the dock or shore when a swimmer feels electrical current, do not jump in. Throw a float, unplug the power cords. Try to eliminate the source of electricity as quickly as possible. Then call for help.