

LCEC Environmental Funding Award Recipient

SPOTLIGHT

The mission of Clear Your Gear is to raise awareness that carelessly discarded/abandoned fishing gear can injure/kill birds, reptiles, and mammals. From creating stickers and coloring books to using social media to educate adults and children alike against the dangers of discarded monofilament line, Clear Your Gear is making great strides in our community. It has been a recipient of an LCEC Environmental Award several times since the inception of the award program in 2013. To find out more about Clear Your Gear and the wonderful work they do, visit their website at clearyourgear.org.



Cape Coral Chamber of Commerce Class of 2021

Congratulations to LCEC employees Eric and Susan on completing the Leadership Cape Coral Class of 2021 program! They successfully wrapped up 13 weeks of learning about Cape Coral and honing their leadership skills in addition to keeping up with their busy workloads!

Farm City BBQ – building a future workforce

The Farm City BBQ began as a way to bring business and agricultural leaders together. LCEC has been a supporter of the event for decades, and employees attend each year. Farm City BBQ organizers took the initiative one step further by investing in the next generation of leaders, which is in line with LCEC values. Revenue from the event benefits:

- Collier County 4H Association
- Youth Leadership Collier
- Collier County Junior Deputy League
- Kiwanis Key Clubs
- Bonita Springs Rotary
- The Immokalee Foundation



TOP 500

LCEC continues to live United

LCEC is proud to once again be a top pacesetter for the United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades, and Okeechobee. LCEC is the fifth highest pacesetter, raising an incredible \$200,000 through their annual efforts that include employee donations, company-run fundraisers, a corporate contribution, and Power to Share funds.



Family Thrift Center owner, Deirdre, generously donated a vehicle to the LCEC Fishing Tourney raffle!

GIVING back.

Are you a follower?
Follow LCEC on SOCIAL MEDIA!
We will keep you up to date with just one quick click.
Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn,
YouTube = @LCECSWFL
Stay updated and be connected

Subscribe to the LCEC YouTube Channel!
Visit
www.youtube.com/c/LeeCountyElectricCooperativeLCECSWFL/featured




EQUITY is part of the RELATIONSHIP

Belonging to a financially strong cooperative has many benefits. Cooperatives also come with member responsibility. Members must invest in the electric system through rates in order to maintain a reliable system, manage debt, provide quality service, and keep rates competitive. In return, members are allocated equity when revenue exceeds operating expenses. Although equity isn't in the form of cash, when financial strength is sustained, a percentage of equity can be retired and returned to members in the form of a credit to their bill or a check if they are no longer an active member. Over the years, LCEC has been able to retire more than \$300 million in equity to active and inactive members.

THE CITY OF CAPE CORAL will eliminate the public service tax exemption in April

Most Florida cities levy a utility tax on the purchase of electricity, metered natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas, and water service. In Cape Coral, the Public Service Tax (PST) has been 7 percent since 2013. In April, the first 500 kWh exemption will be eliminated and residents will pay about \$2 more per month on their electric bills. The City of Cape Coral will use the additional revenue to help pay off the debt of the Cape Coral Charter Schools.



LCEC is required to collect the tax through the electric bill and remit it directly to the City.

BOARD GOVERNANCE



LCEC is committed to conducting business with the highest level of integrity and in an ethical and responsible manner. Board of Trustees, elected by customers, demonstrate authenticity and principles in their professional and personal lives and contribute to the LCEC diversity in terms of background and business experience.

The Board takes great responsibility in setting policy and procedures and maintaining financial strength while supporting employees who run the day-to-day operations.

The 10-member LCEC Board represents all walks of life and resides in communities and neighborhoods throughout the LCEC service territory. Since 1940, LCEC employees, guided by the Board of Trustees, have made a focused effort on balancing fiscal responsibility with the goal of improving the lives of the customers they serve.

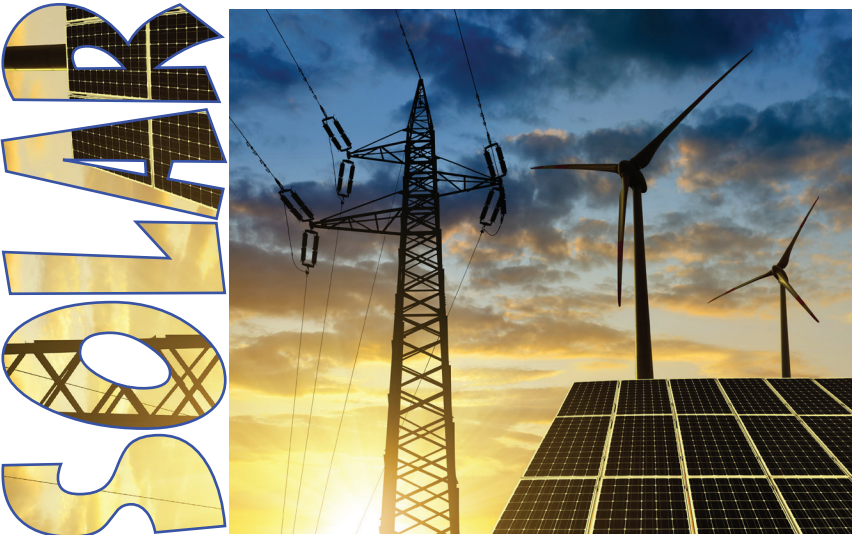
Cost of power increases due to fuel costs

The cost to generate power continues to rise as fuel prices escalate, and is estimated to impact customer bills in 2022. LCEC does not generate electricity and purchases all power from our wholesale power provider Florida Power & Light (FPL). With the diverse FPL fuel mix, LCEC has been able to maintain the cost to purchase power for several years. LCEC customers have not seen an increase since 2008. The cost of power amounts to nearly 70 percent of the total bill. LCEC uses a Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) to "adjust" the amount charged to customers when the price of fuel to generate electricity, rises and falls over time, and can be a credit or charge on the bill. The current PCA is estimated to increase sometime in the first quarter of next year.

Year	2008	2020	Item
	\$5.48	\$7.68	24 pack of Coke
	\$5.98	\$12.98	Tide Detergent
	\$2.65	\$4.12	Gallon of Milk

SOURCE: <https://www.thepeoplehistory.com/pricebasket.html>

Since 2008, the cost of housing, healthcare, food, materials, and labor have increased nationwide. Even with this increase, the cost of electricity remains a great value at a few cents per kilowatt-hour. LCEC continues to be committed to managing a highly effective and reliable electric system with the lowest possible rates.



LCEC does not generate electricity, but our power supplier has the largest fleet of solar generation capacity in Florida. LCEC supports sponsored renewable projects by directly interconnecting with the FPL power network and delivering solar power to homes and businesses within our service territory.

LCEC also encourages renewable generation at your home or your business! Participation in the LCEC Net-Metering Program provides a credit for excess generation, and the interconnection process ensures safety for customers and LCEC workers.

BENEFITS

- **Offsets electricity costs**
- **Reduces dependence on fossil fuels**
- **Excess energy rolls forward each month**
- **Customers receive credit for excess energy left over at the end of the calendar year**
- **Encourages use of renewable energy sources**
- **Reduces healthcare costs associated with air pollution**

Enrolling in SmartHub is easy

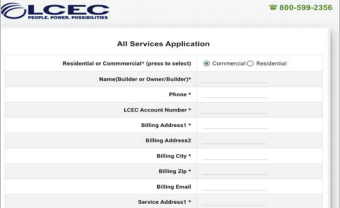
Join the more than 134,000 customers who are enrolled in SmartHub! Register for SmartHub on lcec.net or download the mobile app in in the Apple Store® or in the Android® Market. Simply click on the “Sign up to access our Self Service site” link or the “Don’t have an Account? Register now.” For more details, check out the SmartHub FAQs on lcec.net.

All Services Applications will be available beginning January 1, 2022!

LCEC is committed to offering the best service possible. To make service requests easier for our customers the All Services Application will now be available through the [web form](https://lcec.net/web-form) on [LCEC.net](https://lcec.net) beginning 1/1/2022. Faxed and email applications will not be accepted in order to streamline the process.

The All Services Application encompasses all requests for electric services including DIY construction projects, and new and upgrades to services by builders and electricians.

This change is part of an improvement effort to process applications more quickly and smoothly. For questions about how to complete the online form, please contact LCEC at LCEC Builder Accounts at 239-656-2300 (Option 3 for builder and business).



COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE



1. Membership in a cooperative is open to all people who can reasonably use its services, regardless of race, religion, gender, or economic circumstances.


Ways to save when the weather is COOL



When there is a chill in the air, it is tempting to crank on the heat. Resist the urge! The cost of heating is two to three times more than cooling. Consider using an electric blanket or small space heater to stay warm, or snuggle up in layers with your furry friend or favorite person. If you are too cold and must turn on your heat, LCEC recommends setting the thermostat between 65 and 68 degrees Fahrenheit.

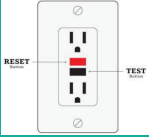
New Year, New and Safer You!

Replace the Batteries in Your Smoke Alarms once a year




Detectors also need to be replaced every 10 years. If you think any of your hardwired systems aren't working, call an electrician to fix it.

Inspect Your Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) Outlets




New Year's is a great time to get into the groove of monthly inspections. Simply press the test/reset button and make sure the outlets trip and reset correctly. If they are malfunctioning, call an electrician to reduce electrocution risk.

Repair or replace faulty appliances



Appliances that do not work well can be fire hazards. Fix or replace! The money you spend will be well worth the protection you receive.

Keep Exhaust Fans Clean




Appliances like fridges, washers, and dryers have exhaust fans that can clog with dirt, lint, and other debris. Clean the fans regularly to prevent overheating or an electrical fire. Cleaning can also extend the life of the appliance.

Dial 911 for emergencies and 211 if you need information

AVOIDING SCAMS

We wish we could leave those sly scammers back in 2021 but, unfortunately, they are here to stay. The best way to protect yourself is to be aware and vigilant in safeguarding your personal information.



Know that LCEC will not:

- Come into a home without making arrangements with you ahead of time
- Solicit personal information over the phone, unless you initiated the call
- Threaten to disconnect service if you do not immediately provide personal information
- Request immediate cash or “gift card” payment
- Visit your home offering cash refunds on deposits or electric charges. LCEC will credit accounts or mail a check to the electric service address

For more information about protecting yourself from scammers, types of scams, and how to report fraud or scams, visit the Safety tab on lcec.net.

Customer Survey Winners

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

Last month's winners were Delbert Cochran of Cape Coral, Nick Hroncich of Cape Coral, and Porfirio Diaz of Lehigh Acres.