

LCEC Canned Food Drive

The LCEC vision encompasses the delivery of electricity and also expresses commitment to supporting our communities through philanthropic endeavors.

LCEC employees collected non-perishable food items to donate to Community Cooperative and help those struggling to buy food. The LCEC goal was to collect 100 pounds of canned food. At the final weigh in, the total was 418 pounds.



OUT AND ABOUT

LCEC has been busy raising funds for the United Way! The 26th LCEC Annual Fishing Tournament was held on September 10. Anglers from all over the state enjoyed the in-person catch and release tournament. The tournament wrap-up event included raffles, silent auction, food, sun and fun for all!

The 11th Annual Goblin Gallop 5k walk/run/virtual run/kid run will be held on October 29 at Jaycee Park in Cape Coral. There is an option for everyone to take part in this spooktacular event. Registration is open and fun is guaranteed!

LCEC sincerely thanks all sponsors, participants, and volunteers who make these fundraisers possible! All proceeds benefit the United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades. Visit uw.lcec.net for Goblin Gallop registration info, fishing tournament wrap-up, and more.

LCEC is a nonprofit corporation. Established in 1940, LCEC delivers power to more than 238,282 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



As a cooperative, LCEC is controlled by its members

Electric distribution cooperatives are controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Men and women, who are also customers, serve as elected representatives and are accountable for ensuring LCEC is managed responsibly and safely. Members have equal voting rights and contribute equitably to the electric system and day-to-day operations of the cooperative.



Follow us!

@lcecswfl

Appreciate LCEC utility workers? Want to show support? Follow LCEC on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn for behind the scenes action, latest updates, and energy tips!

Subscribe to the LCEC YouTube Channel!

Visit www.youtube.com/c/LeeCountyElectricCooperative/LCECswfl/featured

CUSTOMER SURVEY WINNERS

If you receive an LCEC customer survey, return it for a chance to win \$100. Last month's winners were Sandra Viets of North Fort Myers, Flake Wells of Cape Coral, and Armando Perez of Cape Coral.

LCEC NEWS

OCTOBER 2022

Natural Gas Prices = Power Cost Adjustment

A large percentage of electricity utilities deliver is generated from natural gas, which is different from what is used to fuel vehicles. Natural gas is a fossil fuel formed deep beneath the earth's surface and is composed mainly of methane. Natural gas is clean, efficient, highly reliable, and safe.

The cost of fuel, such as natural gas, to generate power is impacted significantly by current market conditions. **Natural gas prices have risen approximately 300 percent over the past twelve months.** This increase has significantly impacted costs for our power supplier which ultimately affects LCEC and its members. Over the past year, the cost to deliver energy to LCEC members has been more than \$50 million above the level recovered through monthly electric bills. While there is no way to predict the future of natural gas prices or power supply costs, it will take some time to recover the expense for the energy customers have already used. Once power supply costs decline, LCEC will be able to reduce the power cost adjustment. We are extremely hopeful to see relief soon.



OCTOBER IS NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MONTH

National Cooperative Month is celebrated nationwide each October to raise awareness of the benefits, values, and charitable outreach that membership provides.

Although cooperatives serve different purposes, electric cooperatives share a common set of principles and values which benefit the cooperative and consumers alike.

LCEC is one of more than 850 not-for-profit electric distribution cooperatives located throughout 46 states. Our values are deep-rooted in the community. Our workforce pays local taxes and supports community services and causes. Cooperatives are run by and for its members who invest in the operation of the utility through electric rates. Profits, or margins, are allocated to members.

For 82 years, LCEC has been focused on delivering reliable electricity and quality service at a reasonable rate. To our LCEC customer members, we are proud and thankful to be YOUR electric cooperative!

A BIT OF CO-OP HISTORY

Minnesota was the first state to declare an official Cooperative Month proclamation in 1948.

Cooperative Month has been a nationally recognized celebration since 1964.

In 2016, a national campaign was developed by a Cooperative Network-led committee of diverse communication professionals through the Cooperative Communicators Association.

<https://www.coopmonth.coop/customizable-resources>



LCEC Auto Pay to save the day



There are many easy and convenient ways to pay your LCEC electric bill. One of the easiest is Auto Pay. This time-saving option will automatically deduct electric payments right from a bank account on the bill due date. This option is open to residential and commercial customers.

All funds must be drawn from U.S. banks only.

Sign up today through the SmartHub mobile app or on lcec.net.

Savings - October cool down

Record temperatures across the nation and in Florida leave utility customers searching for ways to reduce electric bills. Following are energy saving tips to keep in mind as the cooler months approach:



Don't turn up the heat - Take advantage of heat from the sun!

Open window coverings on the south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat the home, and close them at night to reduce the chill from cold windows.



Lower Water Heating Costs

Most water heaters are set much higher than they need to be. This wastes energy and can be dangerous, causing unexpected burns and scalding. Set the water heater temperature down to 120 degrees, and save a significant amount of energy.

Lower Lighting Costs – Holiday lighting can be costly!

In the fall and winter, it gets dark earlier. This means leaving your lights on longer and using more energy. Replace incandescent bulbs with CFL or LED bulbs. They provide the same amount of light for far less energy, and last much longer. For the outside of your home, have lights on a timer or motion sensor.



Think globally, ACT LOCALLY!

LCEC follows state and federal guidelines to recycling materials and contribute to a sustainable community. Each year, LCEC is able to recycle aluminum, copper, steel, and other equipment to generate revenue that is also reinvested into the system! In addition, materials such as plastic, paper, and wood are routinely recycled and employees and contractors are encouraged to participate.



SERVICE *at your fingertips*

SmartHub is one of the many convenient LCEC options offered for customer self-service. The LCEC website is also designed to provide the best possible customer service experience without ever having to call the contact center. Free energy tips and tools are available to help lower electric consumption. Customers can also access an archive of customer newsletters to help stay in-the-LCEC-know, information on how to purchase GenerLink™ and surgeSENSE, and much more. In addition to conducting business virtually, LCEC customer care professionals are always ready, willing and happy to take phone calls. We are also available on social media!

What is the CUSTOMER CHARGE?

All utilities have a fixed monthly charge, this is the basic fee customer pay for electric service. It does not fluctuate with usage and does not include any consumption. This fee is intended to cover the cost of maintaining and keeping a customer account active (data processing, meter reading, billing, customer care, etc.). The charge also covers costs associated with installation and maintenance of utility poles, power lines, and equipment.

Current customer charge rates in Florida:

LCEC - \$15.00

Tampa Electric Company - \$15.00

Gainesville Regional Utility - \$16.00

FPL - \$25 (minimum base bill)

Clay Electric Coop - \$27.00

Peace River Electric - \$30.00

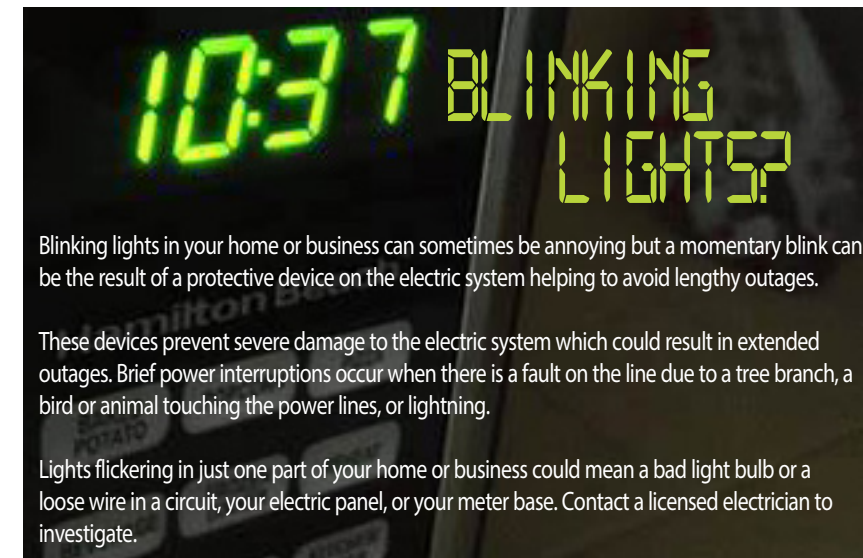
Duke Energy - \$30 (minimum bill charge)

Key West Electric - \$32.50

Withlacoochee River Electric - \$34.16

BE SAFE AROUND POWER LINES

Tree care near power lines is dangerous and may cause serious injury or death. Touching or contacting a power line with body parts, tools, or trimmings may cause a powerful electric shock. During tree care, all tools, body, and tree parts must remain a minimum of 10 feet away from energized lines. Only qualified line clearance arborists may work within 10 feet of energized lines.



Whatever it takes to restore power

LCEC crews will safely do what is needed to restore power. Sometimes it means venturing where others don't want to go. In the Southwest Florida environment, it often means crossing backyard ditches, waist deep swamps, heavy vegetation, and condensed areas. We will always find a way to bring power to our customers!