

LCEC provides

Environmental Funding



to nine local organizations

LCEC was honored to provide Environmental Funding Awards to ArtFest Fort Myers, Audubon of SWFL, Cape Coral Animal Shelter, Cape Coral Wildlife Trust, Inc., Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife, CROW, J.N. Ding Darling, Friends of the Cape Coral Environment, and Monofilament Busters. Since the inception of the award program in 2013, LCEC has bestowed nearly \$240,000 to support local organizations in their endeavors to protect our precious environment.

Environmental Funding is awarded twice a year with deadlines happening in March and September. To apply for an environmental funding award, organizations should visit [www.lcec.net/about-lcec/community-and-education/environment](http://www.lcec.net/about-lcec/community-and-education/environment) to download the application.



## Holiday Hours

### 2022 Holiday Hours

**THANKSGIVING:** closed November 24 and 25, 2022

**CHRISTMAS:** closed December 23 and 26, 2022

**NEW YEAR'S:** closed December 30, 2022

You can conduct business through SmartHub anytime... holidays included!

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



## NAMI Walk CANCELLED

Unfortunately, the LCEC territory is feeling the catastrophic damage from Hurricane Ian; it is something that has not been experienced before. Due to the devastation the NAMI Walk was cancelled. LCEC has been a proud supporter of NAMI three years in a row to help end the stigma of mental health and spread awareness across the community. Team LCEC employees, accompanied by their families were ready to get on their feet and walk across the Edison Bridge in Fort Myers. The 28 eager team members were able to raise \$1,295!

Our commitment to mental health continues no matter the circumstance.



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](http://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 Karolyn Johnston of Cape Coral, Robert Henke of North Fort Myers, and Mercedes Vasquez of Cape Coral.

## LCEC service territory RAVAGED BY HURRICANE IAN

Our entire community was impacted by the unimaginable wrath of Hurricane Ian. The unpredictable path of this historic storm left many unprepared, and our hearts and thoughts are with all who lost lives, homes, businesses and irreplaceable

memoros. LCEC infrastructure and systems were ravaged by wind, debris, salt water, and other extreme conditions.

The LCEC Restoration Plan, which is rehearsed year-round, was put

to the test and our partnerships with vendors all came into play. Within a day, LCEC partnered with contractors, other cooperatives, investor-owned and municipal utilities, State and local agencies, vendors, suppliers, and media.

More than 2,500 crews worked to re-energize the community. The support of these vendors, the patience of customers, and the strength of SWFL has been remarkable. We are extremely thankful.



## LCEC Board of Trustee applications now being accepted

Any LCEC customer/member who is a resident of Lehigh Acres or North Fort Myers can apply for a Board of Trustee seat in the 2023 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. 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



### 2023 SEATS FOR ELECTION:

- District 4—Lehigh Acres
- District 5, Seat 1—North Fort Myers
- District 5, Seat 2—North Fort Myers

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 3, 2023.

# SCAM ALERT

- ▶ If someone suspicious is on your property claiming to be an LCEC representative, ask to see photo identification badge or work request number
- ▶ Do not provide personal information such as bank account numbers, passwords, social security or credit/debit card numbers over the phone unless you initiated the call
- ▶ Ignore suspicious emails that urge immediate action or request personal information
- ▶ Contact LCEC at 239-656-2300 to inquire if representatives are in your area or to ask about your account
- ▶ Do not allow anyone into your home if you feel uneasy about their affiliation with LCEC

**YOU HAVE THE POWER to outsmart scammers**  
 If you think you may have been a victim of a scam, contact LCEC and your local law enforcement immediately.  
 Visit [LCEC.net](http://LCEC.net) for more info on how to spot and report a potential scam!

## Plug into holiday safety

Did you know more than one hundred fires happen per year due to issues with decorative and holiday lights? Here are some tips to stay safe:

- Inspect electrical decorations for damage before use.** Cracked or damaged sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections may cause a serious shock or start a fire.
- Do not overload electrical outlets.** Overloaded electrical outlets are 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 incandescent lights.** More could potentially blow a fuse, or worse, cause a fire.
- Protect cords from damage.** To avoid shock or fire hazards, be sure to 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.




## EMPLOYEES POWER LCEC

From working nonstop to restoring power, and volunteering their time and talents to local boards, our employees truly power LCEC.

Without the expertise, engagement and dedication of our more than 400 employees, LCEC could not deliver on the core values that shape the way we do business. LCEC sincerely appreciates and applauds each and every employee for the million ways they contribute to delivering the service you rely on.

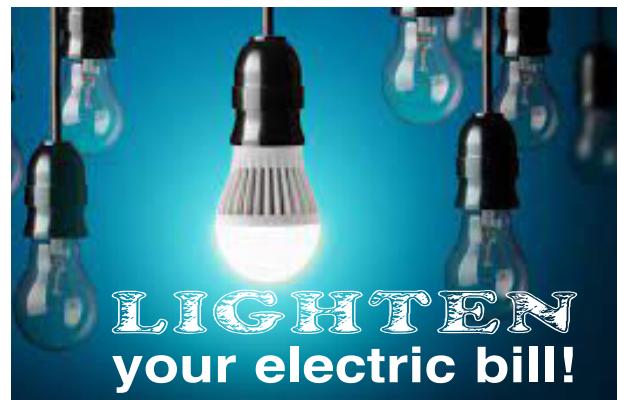
# UNDERSTANDING EQUITY

Anyone receiving power from an electric cooperative is a member of a not-for-profit business.

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, LCEC returns surplus revenue to members. No other business model has this characteristic!

When surplus revenues are collected, they are called margins and allocated to member "equity" accounts annually. Equity accounts are based on how much business a member does with LCEC in a year. The funds are reinvested in the cooperative until it is returned to members through equity retirement. The LCEC Board of Trustees has adopted an equity management plan that sets a projected equity level and a plan that continues to return member investment through equity retirement.

The plan makes it possible to pay equity 20-30 years after it is earned. Electric distribution utilities typically operate within a 30-year financial cycle. Thirty years is a normal life expectancy for infrastructure such as poles, transformers, and facilities that deliver electricity. Additionally, most debt on construction of the infrastructure is financed with 30-year loans. For this reason, member equity is typically returned on or near the same type of cycle. Over the years, LCEC has returned more than \$317 million in equity, including \$13 million in 2022!



## LIGHTEN your electric bill!

Little changes can make a big difference when it comes to your electric usage.

- 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 making them an affordable investment that will save you money in the long-run.
- LEDs use between 85-90 percent less energy while lasting up to 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs.
- LEDs are available for both indoor and outdoor use, and solar-powered LEDs are also a great option.

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



**AutoPay:** A time-saving option that will automatically deduct your payment from your bank account on the due date of the bill. Funds must be drawn from US banks only. Enroll through [SmartHub](http://SmartHub).

**Pay by Phone:** Call 239-656-2300 or 800-599-2356. Checking/savings account payments are FREE and post immediately to your LCEC account. A third-party service fee of \$4 applies.

**SmartHub:** Pay online when you log into Account Access on [lcec.net](http://lcec.net) or SmartHub. Checking/savings account payments are FREE and are posted immediately to your LCEC account or be scheduled for a later date. Third-party service fee of \$4 applies.

**Walk-in Pay Stations:** Visit [www.lcec.net](http://www.lcec.net) for a list of Authorized Walk-in Payment Stations. Accepted forms of payment include cash, check, money order, cashier's check, and traveler's check. A third-party service fee of \$1.50 applies. Please have your LCEC bill or account number available.

**U.S. Mail:** Send your payment in the envelope enclosed with your bill to: LCEC, P.O. Box 31477, Tampa, FL 33631.

**Payment Assistance:** LCEC works with many social service agencies within the community to provide bill payment assistance to customers experiencing hardship. Several human services programs, including United Way 211, provide assistance with food, shelter and employment.

For a list of other convenient services that LCEC provides, visit [lcec.net](http://lcec.net).