

# Avian Protection



Visit [lcec.net](http://lcec.net) for more information on avian protection.

LCEC takes the role of protecting and preserving the animals within our environment very seriously. Partnerships with local experts and customers help sustain the delicate balance between the environment and the need for electricity.

In support of this objective, LCEC initiated an Avian Protection Plan (APP) in 2002 to help protect birds from potential electrocution hazards and collisions on the existing power grid. For many years, LCEC partnered with customers to provide alternate habitats for osprey located away from electric system facilities. Currently, the program has been suspended due to regulatory requirements, and LCEC continues to support efforts by donations of used poles and referrals to partner agencies.

LCEC works to protect birds of prey and other large birds from potential power line risks, in accordance with both the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Eagle Protection Act (EPA).

# LIGHTING UP THE holidays

LCEC has sponsored the Marco Island Christmas Decorating Contest since its beginning in 1994. Home and businesses provide festive displays across the island, and dedicated volunteers coordinate the judging and promotion of the event each year.



Photo credit: Marco Eagle

LCEC Key Account Executive Tricia has been part of the judging team every year!

## CUSTOMER SURVEY WINNERS

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

Last month's winners were Kenneth Boston of Marco Island, Larene Brubaker of Cape Coral, and Ronald Spier of Cape Coral.



Subscribe to the LCEC YouTube Channel!

Visit

[www.youtube.com/c/LeeCountyElectricCooperativeLCECswfl/featured](http://www.youtube.com/c/LeeCountyElectricCooperativeLCECswfl/featured)



## Power Cost Adjustment this month

In January, the Board of Trustees approved a Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) increase effective with February bills. The PCA balances the cost that LCEC pays to purchase power from our supplier, Florida Power & Light (FPL), with revenues received from customers as a pass-through expense.

Due to the continual rise in the cost to generate power and fuel, LCEC customers will see an impact on their electric bills this month. Rest assured that LCEC works diligently to ensure that electric rates stay as low as possible. 2022 marks the 14th year in a row that LCEC base rates have not increased. Base rates are the part of the bill that LCEC can control. Providing reliable and competitive electric services is just part of our mission and promise to our customers!

## Customers said...

LCEC linemen received kudos recently! A customer sent in a message to say, "There was an accident outside of my house and the pole had to be replaced. I watched these linemen doing a very dangerous job and they worked so well together!" We are so proud of our linemen who put their lives on the line daily to keep the lights on for our valued customers!

Customer Diane sent a message to say, "Compliments to the crew that resolved the outage in Coral Lakes so quickly!"

Mr. Frank sent a "shout out to the LCEC Service Techs for taking care of my every need!"

Gina and Sam called to say, "Within 15 minutes the LCEC contract arborist removed the troublesome tree. Thank you for a job well done."

## CFO Sarah Bullock graduates from the Management Internship Program!

LCEC Chief Financial Officer, Sarah Bullock, has completed an intensive program in electric utility management with the University of Wisconsin.

This is the most exclusive management development program in the nation for electric cooperatives. Only CEOs and top-level management can participate in the program.

- The program guides participants through all facets of the electric utility industry, including the many changes occurring around the nation.
- Participants go through three 10-day sessions designed to challenge and educate in new, innovative management techniques.
- They leave with a better understanding of how to enhance the core organization and what the customer wants.



**We applaud Sarah for her hard work and dedication in completing this program.**



## Trustee Election ballots coming soon

Watch for your 2022 LCEC Trustee Election ballot, mailed to all members in March. Seats for Cape Coral (two seats), Lehigh Acres, and Immokalee/Ava Maria are up for election. Trustee seats are staggered to allow for leadership continuity. Board members serve a three-year term. Help us reduce costs by voting by phone or online!

# SmartHub

**LCEC interactive online tools will help you understand and manage your energy usage.**

- Enroll in SmartHub to monitor your energy usage 24/7. Manage your power habits and save!
- Visit [lcec.net](http://lcec.net) and click on the Energy Efficiency tab for more interactive tools to help conserve, and reduce your bill!



Cooperatives create people-centered solutions. People are the priority of a cooperative, and the sole mission is to benefit the people served by the business. This is drastically different from a business controlled by outside investors or government. Governed by members and not operating to make a profit leads to a different decision-making strategy.

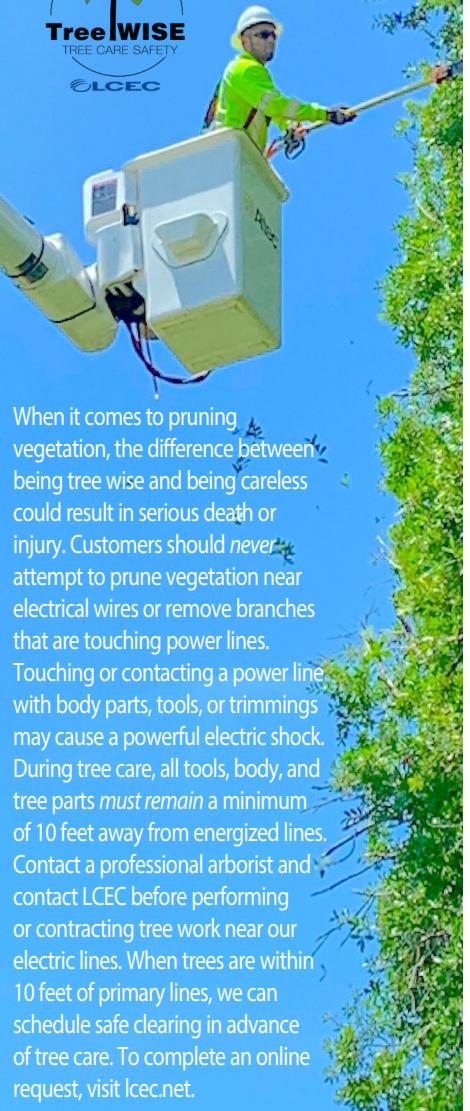
In 2022, LCEC will focus on the following in addition to delivering reliable electricity and quality service at a competitive rate:

**TALENT MANAGEMENT** – We strive to attract the most qualified people to join LCEC and also develop our current employees to prepare them for future opportunities within LCEC. Employees are part of a business designed to support customers, each other, and the community.

**INCLUSION** – LCEC is committed to integrity, diversity, and respect. Recruiting practices, training, and acceptance of varied identities and differences ensures we become more inclusive and diverse.

As part of an expansive, global, cooperative business model, LCEC is proud to support customers while also remaining socially and economically responsible.

## Being Tree Wise is Being Safe



When it comes to pruning vegetation, the difference between being tree wise and being careless could result in serious death or injury. Customers should *never* attempt to prune vegetation near electrical wires or remove branches that are touching power lines. 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. Contact a professional arborist and contact LCEC before performing or contracting tree work near our electric lines. When trees are within 10 feet of primary lines, we can schedule safe clearing in advance of tree care. To complete an online request, visit [lcec.net](http://lcec.net).



## STORM RIPS

through Southwest Florida just before year-end

The National Weather Service estimated winds up to 95 miles per hour ripped through Southwest Florida on December 21. The powerful storm snapped trees, broke utility poles, damaged streetlights, and collapsed carports.

Over 5,000 LCEC customers lost power from the severe weather. Calls began to come in early that morning, racking up more than 500 outage calls before the storm passed.

Crews worked into the night and on the following day to restore power safely and quickly.

## GREEN Tips

Good for the environment and good for your pockets!



**Switch to paperless billing.** Paper products make up the largest percentage of solid waste. Enroll through SmartHub!



**Turn it off and save more!** Turn off lights when leaving a room for 15 minutes or more. Turn off ceiling fans when not in the room and save an average of \$85 per year per fan.



**Use cold water.** Save up to 80 percent of the energy required to wash clothes. Only use hot water when necessary since it uses more energy.



**Check your windows** Cover with blinds, shades, or tint to cool your home and save on energy usage.

Small changes can make a big difference towards protecting our world for future generations.



The LCEC Net Metering program allows customers to interconnect their renewable generations systems (RGS), including photovoltaic systems (PV), to the LCEC power grid.

Net metering has a multitude of benefits such as:

- Offsets electricity costs
- Reduces dependence on fossil fuels
- Credit for excess energy generated at the end of the calendar year

For additional information, contact [LCECNetMetering@lcec.net](mailto:LCECNetMetering@lcec.net) or call LCEC Customer Care at 239-656-2300.