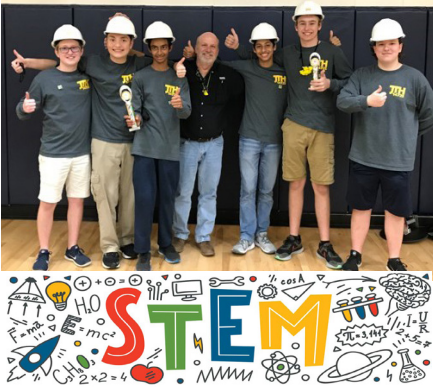


LCEC supporting STEM initiatives!

LCEC is proud to sponsor Java The Hutts Robotic Team!

The Robotics team was selected as the first place Inspire Award winner at the league championship, and will advance to the State First Tech Challenge (FTC) Tournament. This award is given to the team that embodies the challenge, is a gracious competitor, shows professionalism on and off the playing field. Currently, the Java The Hutts robot is ranked number two in the state!

Employees recently witnessed the team's impressive robotic work, knowledge, skill, stewardship, and showmanship during their visit to the LCEC headquarters.



LCEC NEWS

APRIL 2022

Your electric bill includes taxes and fees



LCEC delivers power to six counties and three cities throughout Southwest Florida. LCEC is required to collect taxes and fees from residents and remit to governments within those jurisdictions.

Local voter-approved surtaxes are combined with the local sales tax that utilities must collect and remit to the Department of Revenue each month.

Governments have the authority to levy a public utility tax on the purchase of power, gas, water, and telecommunication services. Utilities are obligated to collect the tax and remit ongoing payments to the government.

Franchise fees are imposed by local governments as a means to collect additional operational funds. The franchise agreement grants a utility the use of rights-of-way for facilities such as poles, pipes, and wires. Utilities collect the fees from customers and remit the funds to the government.

Taxes and fees are indicated separately on the electric bill.

<https://www.lcec.net/pdf/FF-website.pdf>

The City of Cape Coral eliminated the Public Service Tax exemption for the first 500 kWh beginning April 1, 2022.



LCEC holds its Annual Meeting every year at its headquarters in North Fort Myers. This meeting is open to LCEC members, and open attendance is just one of the many benefits of belonging to a cooperative. During the meeting, the official ballot mailing information and LCEC Trustee Election results are announced. LCEC leaders also recap highlights from 2021 and discuss 2022 strategic priorities. For more details about the results from the 2022 Annual Meeting, stay tuned to the May edition of LCEC News.

Register for SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER before an emergency happens

Special Needs Shelters are designed to meet the needs of people who require assistance beyond what is provided at a general shelter during emergencies. When there is no other sheltering option with family or friends, these shelters provide, to the extent possible under emergency conditions, an environment that can sustain health until shelter is no longer needed.



Review qualifications and register early.

Lee County – www.LeeEOC.com
Collier County – www.colliergov.net
Charlotte County – www.charlottecountyfl.com
Hendry County – Contact Emergency Management – www.hendryfla.net

SmartHub



Add your phone number in SmartHub to receive text messages

To use your registered SmartHub account to report an outage, text OUT to 844-248-9817.

www.lcec.net

CUSTOMER SURVEY WINNERS

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

Last month's winners are Able Pages of Cape Coral, James Ryba of Cape Coral, and Michele Valliere of Cape Coral.

Subscribe to the LCEC YouTube Channel!

Visit www.youtube.com/c/LeeCountyElectricCooperativeLCECswfl/featured

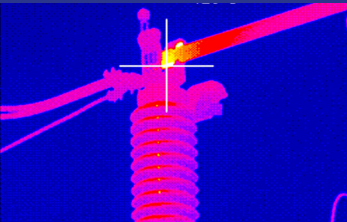


LCEC is a nonprofit corporation. Established in 1940, LCEC delivers power to more than 234,465 customers. LCEC News is published monthly for customers by the Public Relations Department, P.O. Box 3455, N. Ft. Myers, FL 33918-3455 • (800) 599-2356 or 239-656-2300 www.lcec.net

Did you know...

poles, power lines and other system infrastructure are inspected throughout the year?

LCEC employees and contractors use various technologies to analyze data and monitor the system. Visual, mechanical, aerial, and infrared inspections are also conducted to proactively identify situations before a problem occurs.



LCEC continually hardens the electric system by inspecting and identifying potential problem areas. Recognizing replacement and repair needs, as well as detecting areas requiring attention, helps keep costs low while also improving reliability and strengthening the electric system.

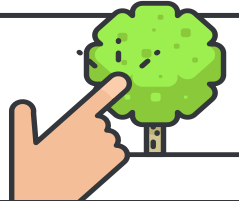


What is the most preferred form of communication?

In 2021, during our Front Porch Forum discussion groups that included customers, the majority of participants said email is the best way to communicate with them about LCEC business!



Email communication is the most preferred and remembered method.



WHY HIRE AN ARBORIST?

WHAT IS A CERTIFIED ARBORIST?

Arborists specialize in the proper care of trees

They know the needs of trees and are equipped to provide proper tree care.

Certified arborists know safety

They are experienced and professionally trained. Line clearance arborists are trained to work near power lines.



TREE CARE IS A PROPERTY INVESTMENT

Well cared-for trees add property value

Healthy trees are an investment.

Poorly maintained trees can be a liability.

Prune dead limbs and prevent roots from affecting your property's foundation. Decrease the risk of accidents and property damage.



FOUR LIFE SAVING REMINDERS:

1. Tree care near power lines may cause **injury or death**.
2. Touching or contacting a power line with tools will result in **a powerful shock**.
3. Tools and trimmings must remain **at least 10 feet away** from energized lines.
4. Only **qualified line clearance arborists** may work within 10 feet of energized lines.



ALWAYS CALL LCEC BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO CARE FOR TREES NEAR POWER LINES 239-656-2300 OR VISIT LCEC.NET



Call 811 before you dig

Calling 811 before you dig isn't just free and simple, it is required by law. The call to 811 should be made at least two full business days before beginning a project that requires digging on your property. When you call, service providers with underground lines in the vicinity of the planned excavation are dispatched to mark the approximate location and type of underground utilities with flags.

It is not uncommon for workers to contact underground utility lines while excavating. The risk of injury, damage to equipment, causing a power outage, or impacting the environment is very serious. Never assume the location of underground utilities. Call 811 to be safe and avoid breaking the law.

Utility lines also run beneath canals and waterways throughout Florida. Posted warning signs regarding submarine cables should always be strictly adhered to. A call to 811 will ensure utilities are marked in the water for work on docks, seawalls, and bridges.

National Lineman Appreciation Day



National Lineman Appreciation Day is celebrated April 18 to #thankalineman for their dedicated work! LCEC honors and thanks not just our dedicated linemen but line workers around the world for the imperative and dangerous work they do.

The power lineman trade began in 1879. These dedicated, highly-skilled workers put their lives on the line daily to keep the lights on. They work in the most dangerous conditions faced with challenging elements and situations.



AUTO PAY:

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.

PAY ONLINE:

Pay online when you log into Account Access on lcec.net or SmartHub. Checking/savings account payments are FREE and can post immediately to your LCEC account or be scheduled for a later date. Third-party service fee of \$4 applies if paying by credit/debit.

PAY BY PHONE:

Call 239-656-2300 or 800-599-2356. Checking/savings account payments are FREE and post immediately to your LCEC account. Third-party service fee of \$4 applies if paying by credit/debit.

U.S. MAIL:

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

WALK-IN PAY STATIONS:

Visit 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. Third-party service fee of \$1.50 applies. Please have your LCEC bill or account number with you.

METER TAMPERING

Meter cheating is not only a crime, it can be life threatening.

LCEC uses automated meter reading technology, business intelligence reporting, and field investigations to detect meter cheaters and prevent the theft of electricity.

DANGERS OF TAMPERING:

- It can result in injury or death by electrocution.
- Altering equipment can be a fire hazard and back-feed into the lines where crews are working, putting them in danger.

CONSEQUENCES:

- In accordance with the Florida Public Service Commission guidelines and LCEC rate tariff, power is disconnected and the meter is removed immediately.
- A \$200 fee, equipment replacement charge, security deposit, current bill, and restitution must be paid before power is restored.

Contact LCEC through lcec.net or 239-656-2300 if you suspect meter tampering. You could be saving lives with just one call or click!



Safeguard your unoccupied home from mold and mildew

Winter residents will soon be leaving sunny SWFL to reside elsewhere for warmer summer months. It is essential that unoccupied homes maintain a small amount of air conditioning to control humidity. Without A/C, humidity can accumulate, causing mold or mildew to grow nearly anywhere. LCEC energy experts recommend at least one of the following techniques to guard against mold and mildew growth:

GOOD: Set the thermostat to 83 degrees Fahrenheit. This is only recommended for short or infrequent summer trips.

BETTER: Install a timer on the A/C system and set it to cycle for two hours every day.

BEST: Install a humidistat on the A/C and set it to cycle whenever indoor humidity exceeds 65 percent. This technique uses the least power. Please note that on new high-efficiency systems, a humidistat may be incorporated with the thermostat control system.

For a list of other convenient services that LCEC provides, visit lcec.net.