

Junior Leadership Cape Coral Tours LCEC!

High school students from Cape Coral invested their time visiting business leaders and employees throughout the region to learn about local career opportunities.

The LCEC tour was a part of the students "Industry Day." Students toured the LCEC warehouse, substation department, meter

shop, system operations, and chatted with CEO, Denise Vidal!

The Junior Leadership program is coordinated through the Chamber of Cape Coral, and LCEC could not be prouder to support the initiative to help sustain a future workforce.



Protect the environment with help from LCEC

Nearly \$205,000 has been awarded to local organizations through the LCEC Environmental Funding Program. The program began in 2013 as a means to positively impact and support sustainability throughout Southwest Florida. Applications are accepted twice a year with deadlines in March and September. Visit the Environment tab of lcec.net for more details and to download an application.



LCEC is proud to support sustainable student creativity

The Lee County Tax Collector and the Foundation for Lee County Public Schools recently honored eighty-three fifth graders for their designs in the Kids Tag Art program. LCEC has helped sponsor the fundraising program to inspire fifth grade students designing specialty license plates. At the same time, students learn how these plates support deserving causes. This year the program raised \$15,000 and each school's art program received \$400 dollars.

Follow us! @lcecsfwfl

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/LeeCountyElectricCooperativeLCECswfl/featured

LCEC is a nonprofit corporation. Established in 1940, LCEC delivers power to more than 236,621 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

Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) increase hitting summer bills

Summer temperatures usually mean increased electric usage. Rising power costs also resulted in an adjustment to the PCA portion of LCEC bills. Power cost is the part of the bill that LCEC does not control. The Power Cost Adjustment is noted separately on your LCEC bill. It is a pass-through from our power supplier and no profit (margin) is earned from this revenue. Part of the cost of power is built into base rates, which LCEC has not increased in 14 years.

When fuel prices go down, the PCA decrease is passed on to members. Since 2014, LCEC customers have seen

five PCA decreases. PCA increases are not unique to LCEC. At this time, many utilities are being forced to increase in order to recover enough revenue to pay power costs.

Summer energy tips to help

- Set AC temp no lower than 78 degrees
- Replace AC filters monthly
- Reduce pool pumps to three hours per day
- Set water heater to 120 degrees
- Don't run ceiling fans when not in the room

LCEC Power to Share program

When you donate to the LCEC Power to Share Program, you are contributing to an effort that make a difference.

As the cost of living continues to rise, there is help available for those in need. LCEC and the United Way partnered to create a program to assist financially strained customers having difficulty making electric payments. The program allows participating members to round up their monthly electric bill to the nearest dollar. Customers and employees also have the option to make an additional monthly contribution or make a one-time donation.

Members can enroll and unenroll easily though the LCEC SmartHub, online at lcec.net or over the phone by calling LCEC Customer Care at 239-656-2300.



An LCEC Community Partnership

For more information visit lcec.net.

SmartHub Set Usage Alerts

Once you are enrolled in SmartHub, you have the power to easily set usage alerts!

Power Usage Alerts send you an email and/or text message notification when your energy usage exceeds the maximum and/or minimum threshold set by you.

Tip:

Analyze your usage to determine what thresholds will work best for you. View your monthly bills (located in Billing History) and the average amount of kilowatt hours (kWh) used per month and divide by 30.

THE STEPS OF POWER RESTORATION

LCEC distributes electricity to more than 236,000 customers in Southwest Florida. Although the electrical system itself is complex, the process of restoration can be easily understood because it goes in steps.



1. The first step in the restoration plan is damage assessment - physical inspections of electric facilities. Once completed, LCEC begins repairs.



2. The second step, main circuits and critical facilities such as hospitals, police and fire stations are repaired.



3. The third step is to restore services to the greatest number of customers as soon as possible.



4. Lastly, LCEC begins restoring power to those small pockets of individuals still without power.



As we weather storm season, customers are asked to be patient if and when power outages occur. In addition to the need for it to be safe for our linemen to work, there are global supply chain issues which may result in major service delays extending through 2023. LCEC is taking measures to mitigate the situation, and thanks customers in advance for their patience.

Electricity you can rely on

As the cost of everything from bread to gas increases, electricity remains a good value. It is a convenience that keeps your lights on, cell phone charged, and dinner cooking. Simple strides at home can even help to reduce your energy consumption and lower your electric bill. We proudly work 24/7/365 to provide our members with electricity they can rely on in a day and age of great change.



BE IN-THE-KNOW about energy usage and watch your bill go down



Understanding your electric usage can be easy and fun with the LCEC online Interactive Home. Spend a few minutes clicking through the "virtual" home to learn many proven ways to save energy dollars year after year. Many of the energy-saving suggestions are low-cost or no-cost.

Visit <https://www.lcec.net/energy-efficiency/energy-tools/interactive-home#> and find tools and information to help you manage your usage and reduce your bill.

EQUITY – Cooperative membership has its privileges



Although not in the form of cash, LCEC equity represents a member's contribution to the construction and operation of the electrical system. Not-for-profit cooperatives, like LCEC, utilize revenues to build and maintain infrastructure, purchase materials and services needed to deliver power, recruit, and retain skilled employees, implement technology, and sustain favorable financial ratios required by lenders. Simply put, member bill payments allow LCEC to operate efficiently and deliver reliable power.

Unlike municipal utilities or investor-owned utilities, any funds remaining after expenses are allocated back to the cooperative members in the form of an equity credit. Over the years, LCEC has been financially strong enough to retire and return more than \$317 million in equity to members. This year, over \$13 million in equity was returned to members.

SUNSHINE is part of a DIVERSE FUEL MIX

As a distribution cooperative, LCEC customers are afforded a diverse fuel mix from our power supplier which includes solar. In fact, our power supplier has the largest fleet of solar generation in all of Florida! Delivering power generated from renewable energy solutions is something we take pride in. Those interested in renewable generation at their home or business can visit lcec.net to learn more about the LCEC Net Metering Program.



DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL



One of the 7 cooperative principals

Cooperatives around the world operate according to the same set of core principles and values, adopted by the International Co-operative Alliance.

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in strategic direction, setting policies, and making decisions that impact the business. Trustees are elected from the membership and represent the best interest of all customers.

Smooth Sailing

While sailboats make up only a small percentage of the vessels on Southwest Florida's waterways, they do account for some of the region's largest boats. A relaxing sailing trip can be ruined quickly if caution is not taken near overhead power lines.

If a sailboat mast contacts the power lines, there is potential for damage, injuries, and thousands of people could lose electricity.

To avoid hitting power lines while sailing, check nautical maps for overhead line clearances and stay in the main channel.

In addition, ensure all safety equipment is within easy access and in good working condition so your trip is safe and enjoyable.

