

# Understanding your EQUITY

One of the many benefits of being a member of a financially stable and fiscally responsible cooperative is the equity program. Equity is not money in the bank and represents member investment in the LCEC electrical system in the form of substations, poles, lines, transformers, and other facilities. This investment affords LCEC the ability to maintain and improve the delivery of power and service without incurring additional loans. The amount of equity allocated to every member each year is calculated based on the amount of electricity used by the member during that period. LCEC is proud to have been able to return nearly \$13 million in equity to members this year.



LCEC Key Account Representative presents Facilities Management Executive Director for Collier County Public Schools Marc Rouleau with an equity check.

During hurricane season, the Sunshine State faces greater hurricane risk than any other U.S. state.

The peak of hurricane season falls on September 10. The two biggest reasons tropical activity tends to peak in early-to-mid September is that the Atlantic is warmer and wind shear is weaker.

Typical summer storms are a little different from hurricanes. During severe weather, when large outages are likely to occur, there is no need to report your outage. In the rare case of a widespread outage, LCEC is already aware of the interruption in power and is working as quickly and safely as possible to restore power.

- In the event of an outage outside of hurricane impact, customers can view the LCEC Outage Map at [lcec.net](http://lcec.net) to stay informed as restoration takes place.
- Register your phone number in SmartHub and you can text OUT to 844-948-2817 to easily report your outage.

## September is the most active month of the Atlantic hurricane season



## TRUSTEE ELECTION



LCEC board members are elected by LCEC members, and represent the geographical area in which they reside. Three-year terms are staggered in order to provide continuity on the board.

The 10-member board takes great responsibility in setting policies and procedures and maintaining financial strength while supporting employees who run the day to day operations of the utility.

*Ballots for the 2023 LCEC Trustee Election will be mailed to customers in March. Instructions for voluntary voting are printed on the ballot, and include voting online, or by phone. Election results will be presented at the LCEC Annual Meeting in April.*

**Visit the Board of Trustees page on [lcec.net](http://lcec.net) for more information on LCEC's current board, the nomination process and more.**



### Follow us!

@lcecswnl

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



Natural gas is different from the gas we use in our vehicles and is the primary fuel used to generate power for LCEC members. The cost to generate power directly, or purchase power from a wholesale provider then distribute to customers is the a largest part of the bill. Power costs include both the generation assets (eg: nuclear and natural gas power plants, solar fields, coal plants), as well as the fuel to generate the power. The cost for both components has skyrocketed over the past year

As an electric distribution cooperative, LCEC avoids the direct cost of constructing and maintaining power generation assets and generating power. Instead, LCEC members pay only a share of the investment and fuel costs to a wholesale power supplier. Aging coal

power plants are being replaced with cleaner generation sources like natural gas and solar and the costs for these investments are passed on to customers. Over the past twelve months, the LCEC share of solar investment has been \$30 million above the amount recovered from members. It is an investment in the future. Through your power supplier, LCEC members have access to the most diverse power sources available in the state.

The cost of fuel to generate power is also impacted significantly by current market conditions. Natural gas is clean, efficient, highly reliable, safe and reduces demand on the electric grid. Much like the price tag of everything we rely on, the cost of natural gas has increased over the past year. In fact, natural

gas prices have risen approximately 300 percent over the past year. This increase has significantly impacted costs for our power supplier which ultimately affects LCEC and its members. Over the past twelve months, the fuel costs to generate power for LCEC members has been close to \$50 million above the level recovered from members. LCEC is extremely hopeful to see relief soon.

LCEC is a local electric cooperative with employees and a member-elected board from your community. We share your interests and concerns and thank customers for their understanding and patience as we continue to work through the tough times we are still experiencing due to Covid-19, supply chain disruptions, and a volatile fuel market.

## Supply chain disruptions hitting close to home

New services, district lighting, and projects relying on specific equipment and supplies are being pushed out further on LCEC construction schedules due to material delays. Supply chain disruptions have caused a rippling effect on Southwest Florida businesses and homeowners causing delays for electric service connection until inventory levels are adequate. Suppliers across the nation are unable to determine when materials will become available adding more uncertainty to the equation.



Global material delays directly stem from disruptions in manufacturing and delivery, as a result of COVID-19, raw material and labor shortages, and weather events. Suppliers are working to manufacture as quickly and efficiently as possible and LCEC is connecting services as soon as materials become available.



### CUSTOMER SURVEY WINNERS

If you receive an LCEC customer survey, return it for a chance to win \$100.  
Last month's winners were Eliseo Rivera of North Fort Myers, Cheryl Cox of Cape Coral, and Connie Mooney of North Fort Myers.

LCEC is a nonprofit corporation. Established in 1940, LCEC delivers power to more than 237,468 customers.  
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# High bill questions?

There are many factors that can lead to an increase in your electric bill. LCEC offers online tools like Calc-U-Saver and SmartHub usage tracking to help manage your electric bill as much as possible. Visit [www.lcec.net](http://www.lcec.net) for more information.

## What is driving the increase?

1



LCEC recently made a power cost adjustment (PCA) in order to recover the cost of power from our power supplier. The cost to generate power, mostly driven by natural gas prices, and investment in future renewable generation is passed on to LCEC, and then customers. **When the cost decreases, the PCA will also decrease.**



2



Warmer temperatures outside mean the AC works harder to cool inside. Keeping the thermostat at 78 degrees or higher and changing air filters consistently will help conserve.

3



No two households use energy the same way. The size of the home, age of AC and appliances, number of people at home for extended time, a swimming pool or hot tub, and many other factors contribute to usage.

4



Check the number of days billed and the number of kWh used in a billing cycle. The number of days in a cycle varies due to the number of days in a month.

# SmartHub

## Choice and convenience at your fingertips.

**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.

**Enroll now** [lcec.net](http://lcec.net)

## SEPTEMBER SAVINGS Challenge

Challenge your family and friends to mark off these energy savings tips this month!

- Only use the dishwasher when you have a full load of dishes.
- Cut down your shower time by one minute.
- Only run your pool pump for a maximum of 8 hours a day.
- Turn off lights whenever you leave a room.
- Seal leaks around windows and doors so cool air stays inside.
- Replace two standard light bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps or LED lamps.

**A few simple steps can add up to significant savings. Visit [lcec.net](http://lcec.net) for more tips!**



11th Annual LCEC Goblin Gallop  
5K Walk/Run/Virtual Run/Kid Run for  
United Way

**OCTOBER 29, 2022**

JC Park • 4125 SE 20th Pl, Cape Coral

<https://uw.lcec.net/SitePages/5k.aspx>



An LCEC Community Partnership

LCEC partners with the United Way to create a program that assists financially strained customers with their electric bill payments.

Customers and employees contribute funds to the program so United Way 211 can administer them to eligible recipients.

LCEC and the United Way are committed to helping people in our community improve their overall quality of life through long-lasting change. By donating to the LCEC Power to Share Program, you can help those who need it the most.

**Donations to the fund can be made at <https://www.united-waylee.org/donate/>.**

# Net Metering Know-how



The LCEC Net Metering program was developed as a means for environmentally-focused members to interconnect their renewable generation systems (RGS) including photovoltaic systems (PV) to the LCEC power grid. Energy that is not used when it is produced is sent to the grid as excess energy. Any excess energy accrued as kWh will be trued up at year-end and a check will be mailed to the member. Visit [lcec.net](http://lcec.net) for the LCEC Net Metering Guidelines.

### BENEFITS OF NET METERING:

- Offsets electricity costs
- Reduces dependence on fossil fuels
- Excess energy rolls forward each month
- Member receives credit for excess energy left over at the end of the calendar year
- Encourages use of renewable energy sources
- Reduces healthcare costs associated with air pollution

## Electrical safety for DIY projects

If hiring a licensed electrician to perform electrical work in your home isn't in your budget or you prefer to do things yourself, it is essential to keep the following in mind:

- Work within your skill and comfort level. Working on something you are not knowledgeable about could result in fire, injury and even fatality.
- Turn off your circuit breaker before doing any electrical work.



Visit [lcec.net](http://lcec.net) for more ways to practice electrical safety.