

# FISHING UNITED

The local community came together like never before for this year's 27<sup>th</sup> Annual LCEC Fishing tournament in support of the local United Way. A total of 190 Anglers recorded more than 232 fish through the virtual FishDonkey app; fish were released to catch again next year. The tournament raised more than \$50k. It could only be achieved through the support of generous sponsors, donors, anglers, and volunteers. In addition to the catch and release tournament, an online auction, raffle, bucket raffle, and tackle grab were held.

Stay tuned for results and the next fundraising event being held in January - the LCEC 5k Resolution Run!



## 2023 Association of Large Distribution Cooperatives Fall Meeting (ALDC) – Grapevine Texas

A group of LCEC Leaders attended the annual ALDC meeting held in Grapevine, Texas last month. LCEC CEO, Denise Vidal is currently the Chair of the ALDC. The meeting featured leaders from cooperatives across the United States that discussed a wide variety of relevant electric cooperative topics. In addition, ideas were exchanged about power supply, safety, AI/chat GBT, and utility management systems.



## Think globally, act locally!

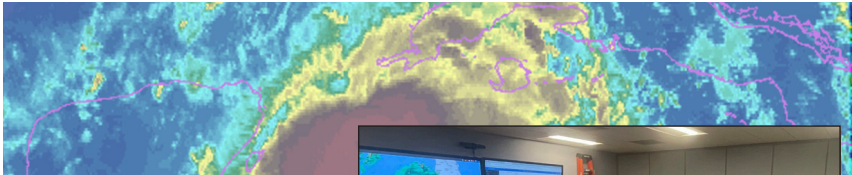
LCEC follows state and federal guidelines for recycling materials and contributes to a sustainable community. Each year, LCEC is able to recycle aluminum, copper, steel, and other equipment to generate revenue that is also reinvested into the system! In addition, materials such as plastic, paper, and wood are routinely recycled and employees and contractors are encouraged to participate.



# LCEC NEWS



OCTOBER 2023



## The LCEC system fared well during Hurricane Idalia

Team LCEC and partners were prepared and ready for whatever Hurricane Idalia brought to SWFL. Crews and materials were staged throughout the service territory as the storm was monitored. Enhancements to the LCEC Restoration Plan after Hurricane Ian and year-long maintenance and storm hardening paid off. Very few scattered outages occurred throughout the storm. Crews worked through the night and into the early morning to restore power as quickly and safely as possible for those impacted. With every storm, LCEC improves the plan. Hopefully, the plan won't be activated again this storm season. We will be ready if needed!



LCEC sent resources to ravaged areas to assist other cooperatives restore power. A convoy of LCEC workers and material made the trip to Perry as soon as SWFL was in the clear. Our hearts go out to those in areas damaged by the storm.

## How rates are designed for electric cooperatives

Electric cooperatives conduct cost of service studies to determine fair and equitable rates for residential and commercial customers. LCEC works with an independent consulting firm with the goal of offering cost-based rates that allow for safe and reliable delivery of power. Power delivery costs for cooperatives include a minimum rate of return required by lenders and do not include profits for investors. In the event that revenues exceed expenses, the margins are allocated back to members. It is truly one of the benefits of belonging to a cooperative.



## LCEC reduced the PCA not once, but twice in 2023!

In June 2023,  
LCEC reduced the PCA by **9.4%**  
In August 2023,  
LCEC reduced the PCA by **3%**

Bringing the total **DECREASE**  
so far this year to  
**12.4% per 1,000 kWh**

Utility Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) is designed to adjust for, or anticipate, costs for purchased power. This year's decreases are the result of cost recovery forecasts and budget projections related to purchased power cost decreases.

Power cost adjustments happen regularly throughout the energy industry. Power suppliers make adjustments based on variable fuel costs related to power production and the costs, or savings, are passed on to customers.

*Since 2014, LCEC has implemented seven PCA decreases. There are no margins (profit) earned on the power cost portion of the customer bill. It is solely a pass-through to the power supplier.*



## October is National COOPERATIVE MONTH!

National Cooperative Month is celebrated nationwide each October to raise awareness of the benefits, values, and charitable outreach that membership provides.

LCEC is one of more than 850 not-for-profit electric distribution cooperatives located throughout 46 states. The LCEC values are deep-rooted in the community. LCEC employees pay local taxes and support community services, agencies, and causes.

Cooperatives are run by, and for, its members who invest in the operation of the utility through electric rates. Profits, or margins, are allocated to members.

**For over 80 years, LCEC has been focused on delivering reliable electricity and quality service at a reasonable rate. It's the cooperative way.**

If you receive an LCEC customer survey, return it for a chance to win \$100. Last month's winners were:  
Marva Kerr - North Fort Myers  
Linda C. Zuchowski - Cape Coral  
Peter Rechek - Cape Coral



# PAYMENT OPTIONS

## AUTO PAY:

Automatically deducts a payment from a bank account on the due date.

Funds must be drawn from US banks only. Enroll through [SmartHub](#).

## PAY BY PHONE:

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

## PAY ONLINE:

Log into Account Access on [lcec.net](#) or SmartHub. Checking/savings account payments are FREE and post immediately to an LCEC account or can be scheduled for a later date. Third-party service fee of \$4 applies.

## U.S. MAIL:

Send your payment in the envelope enclosed with your bill to:

LCEC, P.O. Box 31477, Tampa, FL 33631.

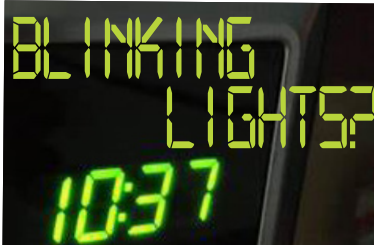
## WALK-IN PAY STATIONS:

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.

## PAYMENT ASSISTANCE

LCEC works with social service agencies within the community to provide bill payment assistance to customers experiencing hardship. There are several human services programs that can provide assistance in the areas of food, shelter and employment, including United Way 211.

*For a list of other convenient services that LCEC provides, visit [lcec.net](#).*



Blinking lights in your home or business can sometimes be annoying. A momentary blink can be the result of a protective device on the electric system helping to avoid a lengthy outage. Brief power interruptions occur when there is a fault on the line due to a tree branch, a bird or animal touching the power lines, or lightning. These devices prevent severe damage to the electric system which could result in extended outages.

LCEC is considering two new PURPA standards defined by the 2021 Infrastructure Bill, and members have the opportunity to comment. The determination will be announced at the November meeting of the Board of Trustees. Find more information on [lcec.net](#) by typing "PURPA" in the search box.

## Enlighten your energy savings

Standard incandescent light bulbs are not energy efficient. To be fully energy efficient, a bulb must convert electricity to light while not producing heat. Keep the following in mind when selecting lighting for your home



### LIGHT EMITTING DIODE (LED) BULBS:

- 90 percent efficient
- Typically lasts an average of 25,000 hours
- Cost for 25,000 hours is approximately \$30



### COMPACT FLUORESCENT (CFL) BULBS:

- 85 percent efficient
- Typically lasts an average of 8,000 hours
- Cost for 25,000 hours is approximately \$50

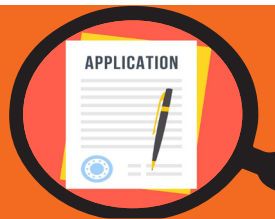


### INCANDESCENT BULBS:

- 10 percent efficient
- Typically lasts an average of 750 hours
- Cost for 25,000 hours is approximately \$169

Source: GE Lighting

## Now accepting applications for LCEC Board of Trustees



An LCEC member who resides in Cape Coral, Marco Island, Sanibel/Captiva, or Pine Island can apply for a Board seat in the 2024 Trustee Election. All applicants are considered and interviewed by the Nominating Committee. Three seats are up for election annually and LCEC members can vote online, by phone, or by mail once ballots are mailed in March. Terms are staggered to provide continuity on the Board.

Board members demonstrate leadership and integrity in their professional and personal lives. They contribute to the organization's diversity in terms of background and business experience.

If you would like to be considered for a position on the Board of Trustees, contact [pr@lcec.net](#). Applications accepted through January 2, 2024.

# TREE CARE

## near power lines is DANGEROUS

Go to [lcec.net](#) for safety tips!

Contact LCEC first!



## 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/LeeCountyElectricCooperativeLCECswfl/featured](#)

## A nationwide threat to reliability of the electric grid –

a perspective from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

America's electric grid is one of the worlds most remarkable technological marvels. It delivers power to millions of people across the nation safely, affordably, and reliably. New environmental rules related to emissions, permitting and financing, and compliance timelines are forcing a strain on power suppliers during periods of extreme heat this

summer. The challenge is that some of the environmentally preferred technologies are not commercially viable, compliance deadlines are tight, and requirements are costly. The premature retirement of some generation plants before renewable energy options are available could place economic pressure on ratepayers and threaten reliability of the grid. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association CEO Jim Matheson explained, "American families and businesses rightfully expect the lights to stay on at a price they can afford." At a Senate meeting in May, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) also warned that the nation is facing

unprecedented challenges to the reliability of the electric grid and that the transition to cleaner energy is happening too fast and could have disastrous consequences.

