



## LCEC PARTICIPATED IN THE 5TH ANNUAL TOUCH-A-TRUCK

LCEC participated in the 5th Annual Touch-A-Truck event last month at the Saint Michael Lutheran School. This free family event was a hands-on interactive experience where kids were able to touch, feel, and experience different types of trucks. Not only does this experience unlock the imagination, but it also allows participants to ask questions and learn from the professionals who utilize these trucks. LCEC is proud to take part in educational community events that allow children to learn and possibly become future LCEC line workers!

## Goblin Gallop 5k for United Way

With the original date being rescheduled due to Hurricane Ian, LCEC was proud to have the 11th Annual LCEC Goblin Gallop 5K Run/Walk and Kids Fun Run to benefit the United Way, Saturday, January 7, 2023. All proceeds benefit the more than 90 partner agencies in the Southwest Florida area. Following such a devastating storm, the community came together and showed support for those who need it most.



*The thanks keep coming in!*

"Lee County Utilities would like to take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude for assisting us with much needed services and supplies following Hurricane Ian. With your help we were able to respond to and quickly address our customers' concerns. Most importantly, we were able to keep our mission of providing safe and reliable drinking water and wastewater service to the residents of Lee County. As the County continues to rebuild and recover, we will need to keep relying on your assistance and partnership. We are very grateful that you are here in our community and truly appreciate all your help during this difficult time."

Sincerely,  
Lee County Utilities

"The Sanibel Sea School has been closed since Ian hit, receiving no tuition and missing out on serving hundreds of children and families. On behalf of our hardworking staff and dedicated Board of Trustees, we are thankful for the LCEC grant which will be used to support post-Ian recovery efforts, and programs through the summer. We couldn't get through these challenging times without you."

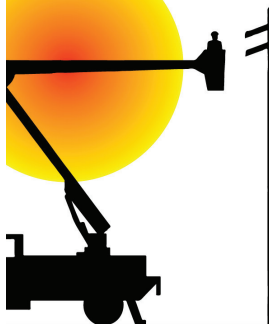
Ocean Love,  
Sanibel Sea School

LCEC is a nonprofit corporation. Established in 1940, LCEC delivers power to more than 237,333 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](http://www.lcec.net)

## LCEC CUSTOMER CHARGE

The LCEC customer charge increased \$3 as of February 1, 2023. All utilities have a fixed monthly charge as the basic fee customers pay for electric service. It does not fluctuate with usage and does not include any consumption. This charge covers expenses for maintaining poles, wires, substations, equipment, and protection against cyber threats. Monthly cooperative member investment allows LCEC to provide safe, reliable, and affordable power. This slight increase is necessary to meet the current cost of service and future performance necessities. Check out the back of your bill for more information.

## POWERING your EVERYDAY



All utilities have a fixed monthly charge as the basic fee customers pay for service. This charge covers expenses for:

- Maintaining poles
- Wires
- Substations
- Equipment
- Protection against cyber threats

Your monthly investment allows us to provide safe, reliable, and affordable power.



## Trustee ballots coming to your mailbox soon

Trustee Election ballots will hit member mailboxes in March! Seats for election include:

DISTRICT 4 – LEHIGH ACRES

DISTRICT 5, SEAT 1 – NORTH FORT MYERS

DISTRICT 5, SEAT 2 – NORTH FORT MYERS

Board members serve a three-year term and Trustee seats are staggered to allow for leadership continuity. To find out more about the LCEC Board, visit the About > Board of Trustees tab on [lcec.net](http://lcec.net)!

Keep it simple and low cost by voting online or phone!

CUSTOMER Survey WINNER!

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

Last month's winners were Stanley Flower of Cape Coral, David Sobocinski of Cape Coral, and Cynthia Hinoite of North Fort Myers.



## Follow us!

@lcecsfwf

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

## EQUITY AID RELIABILITY

Equity is not money in the bank. LCEC equity signifies a cooperative members' investment in the electrical system. This investment allows for the purchase, maintenance, and repair of essential items such as substations, poles, lines, transformers, and other facilities reducing the need for costly financing. Equity enables LCEC to consistently enhance reliability and helps keep rates reasonable.





# LCEC partners with TOUCHSTONE ENERGY COOPERATIVE



LCEC is dedicated to providing reliable, cost-competitive electricity with an exceptional member engagement experience. To enhance that experience, LCEC is partnering with Touchstone Energy Cooperative! Touchstone is a national network of electric cooperatives that provides research, targeted programs, communication resources, and employee development. Touchstone has served the cooperative community for over 25 years, supporting nearly 700 electric cooperatives across 45 states. The focus is on delivering a national brand dedicated to educating its members and employees on the cooperative difference, which puts LCEC members first.



**The LCEC Net Metering program allows LCEC customers with a renewable generation system (RGS) to offset all or part of their energy use.**

## Do your homework before getting started:

1. Conduct research to evaluate systems and vendors
2. Review the LCEC Net Metering Guidelines
3. Complete a net metering application and interconnection agreement
4. Apply for local government permitting and inspection
5. Once the PV system is installed, provide inspection documentation to LCEC
6. LCEC will install a bidirectional meter and provide the OK to operate the net metering system

Energy generated by the customer, will be deducted from the energy delivered by LCEC. The net energy will be utilized for the billing calculation. Any energy banked will be carried forward as a credit to the end of the calendar year, and payable at the avoided wholesale power cost.

**Please Note:** Customers are responsible for the minimum customer charge to support the cost of infrastructure needed when not generating their own energy. All taxes, governmental fees, and power cost adjustments apply. In addition, a kW demand charge may apply.



## RIGHT TREE IN THE RIGHT PLACE ...

**Think before you plant to help maintain electric reliability for everyone.**

Many trees were impacted here in SWFL by Hurricane Ian. Replanting is great for the environment but could mean trouble for you, your neighbors, and LCEC, depending on the type of tree and where you plant it.

### RIGHT TREE

- The trees you select should depend on growth rate, leaf persistence, shape, and salt tolerance (if you live near saltwater).

### RIGHT PLACE

- Vegetation that could potentially interfere with power lines at its mature height should not be planted below power lines or near electric utilities. Trees may appear to be a safe distance from power lines; however, that may not be the case during a storm.

**LCEC asks that customers leave an 8-foot space in front of the door side of the underground transformer and maintain a 3-foot cleared area around the electric meter and a 3-foot-wide approach to the meter.**



## Green Tips

LCEC is committed to protecting and preserving the environment. Following are tips that are **good for the environment and good for your pocket!**



1

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



2

**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.



3

**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.

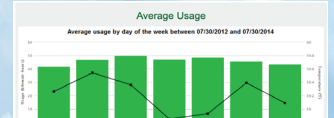
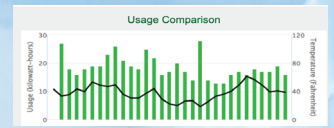


4

**Line-dry laundry.** Tumble-drying clothes uses large amounts of electricity, so use a clothes line or drying rack to dry laundry more naturally.

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

## Manage your usage in SmartHub



**lcec.net**