

FUTURE LEADERS RISING

LCEC is committed to supporting local Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) programs.

LCEC was proud to hold its first STEM@Work tour since the start of the pandemic in March of 2020. During the recent visit, students took a tour of the LCEC facility, enjoyed hands-on activities, and took their learning experience to new heights by riding a bucket truck 125 feet in the air! LCEC continually partners with agencies, groups, and events to ensure local students have the best opportunity for a bright future. Even small efforts are a step toward developing a sustainable workforce.



Edison Festival of Light Grand Parade

LCEC employees, friends, and family along with a transmission truck, signature LCEC lightbulb balloon and a compliment of contractors who helped with Hurricane Ian restoration efforts, were proud to participate in the 2023 Edison Festival of Light Parade in February. This well-attended and adored community event is the largest night parade in the southeast. It's always a fantastic time for parade goers and parade participants alike!



Investing in RELIABILITY

LCEC invests a great deal in ongoing vegetation management programs along LCEC main distribution and transmission line rights-of-ways to ensure reliability of the electric system. In addition, electric rates fund efforts to strengthen the system through routine inspections, maintenance, and enhanced use of technology. Proactively investing funding and resources helps to mitigate the risk of outages during storms and blue skies.

Check your mailbox!

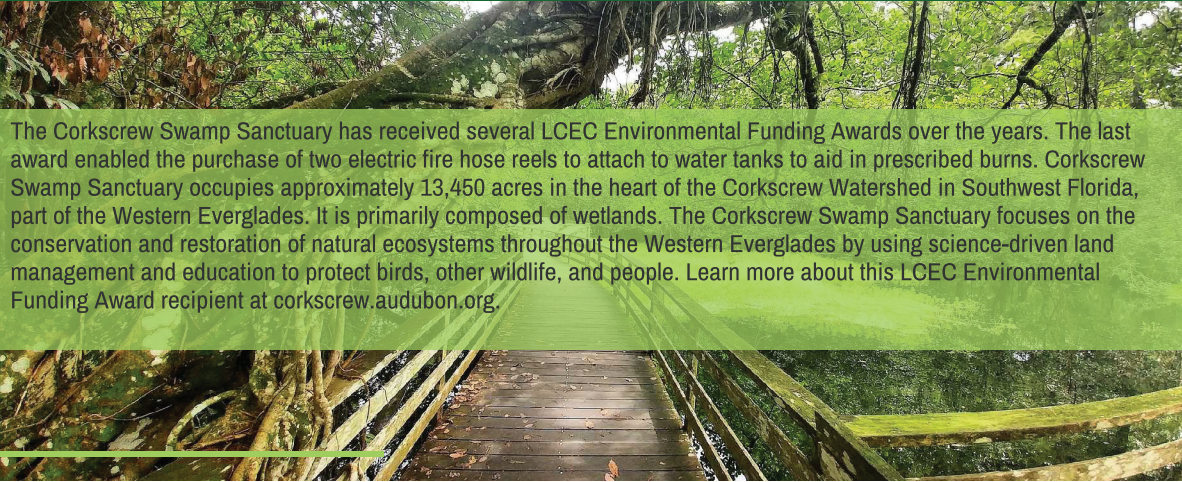


LCEC members will receive a Trustee Election ballot this month and have the opportunity to vote for one candidate in each of the three seats slated for the 2023 election. Please consider using the online or telephone voting options to help keep costs lower.

ANNUAL MEETING IN APRIL

The LCEC Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 20, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. at the LCEC corporate office. Board President Russell Priddy and Chief Executive Officer Denise Vidal will review 2022 accomplishments and detail plans for 2023. Official Trustee election results will also be announced.

Environmental Funding Award Spotlight



The Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary has received several LCEC Environmental Funding Awards over the years. The last award enabled the purchase of two electric fire hose reels to attach to water tanks to aid in prescribed burns. Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary occupies approximately 13,450 acres in the heart of the Corkscrew Watershed in Southwest Florida, part of the Western Everglades. It is primarily composed of wetlands. The Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary focuses on the conservation and restoration of natural ecosystems throughout the Western Everglades by using science-driven land management and education to protect birds, other wildlife, and people. Learn more about this LCEC Environmental Funding Award recipient at corkscrew.audubon.org.

WHAT IS EQUITY?

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative LCEC returns surplus revenue to members. Anyone receiving power from an electric cooperative is a member of a not-for-profit business. No other business model has this characteristic!

When surplus revenues are collected, they are called margins and allocated to member "equity" accounts annually. Equity accounts are based on how much business a member did with LCEC in a year. The funds are reinvested in the cooperative until it is returned to members through equity retirement. The LCEC Board of Trustees has adopted an equity management plan that sets a projected equity level and continues to return member investment through equity retirement.

This plan makes it possible to pay equity 20-30 years after it is earned. Electric distribution utilities typically operate within a 30-year financial cycle. Thirty years is a normal life expectancy for infrastructure such as poles, transformers, and facilities that deliver electricity. Additionally, most debt on construction of the infrastructure is financed with 30-year loans. This is the reason member equity is typically returned on or near the same type of cycle.



Over the years, LCEC has returned more than \$300 million in equity, including \$13 million in 2022!

SmartHub enrollments continue to rise

There are now 173,244 LCEC customers enrolled in SmartHub! These customers are reaping all the benefits that SmartHub has to offer including the ability to:

- View payment history
- Pay your bill
- Request a payment extension
- Receive bill reminders
- Set usage alerts
- Monitor energy usage
- Report an outage

Visit lcec.net to enroll in SmartHub today!



lcec.net

Avian Protection

Protecting the environment is of the utmost importance at LCEC. In addition to partnering with local experts and members to understand and balance the needs of our environment, LCEC keeps a close eye on birds specifically. Maintenance is conducted on avian protection equipment year-round with special attention paid to nesting periods and other environmental considerations. LCEC also patrols the service territory to watch for nests being built on electrical equipment which could pose danger to the birds and the reliability of our system. Visit lcec.net to read about the ways that LCEC protects the environment while delivering on our mission to deliver electricity you can rely on.



Kids electrical safety



Curiosity is a natural part of childhood learning, and it can be extremely dangerous when it comes to electricity. LCEC is dedicated to education and awareness of electricity dangers. Childhood injuries and deaths from electrically-related accidents are preventable. Below are at home and outdoor safety tips for you and your little ones.

At Home Safety



- Never let children stick their fingers or any other object into the electrical outlets.
- Never use any electrical appliance near the sink, bathtub, or near water.
- Keep electrical cords away from sinks, bathtub or any other sources of water. Apart from causing shock, they are a choking hazard for children.
- Always dry hands before touching any electrical appliance or device, such as a light switch, toaster, or hair dryer.
- Do not pull the electrical plug out of the socket by pulling away its cord.
- Keep electrical appliances switched off and unplugged when cleaning an electrical appliance.
- Replace worn, torn or any damaged cord immediately to prevent shocks.

Outdoor Safety



- Avoid allowing children to climb trees that are near power lines or have power lines running above them. If children love flying kites, make sure they are away from the power lines, in case the strings get entangled. The electricity from the power lines can run through the strings causing burn injuries or shocks.
- Swimming should be avoided during electrical storms. Do not touch any electrical appliance if you are wet, in the swimming pool, or standing in a puddle.
- Never touch broken wires or wires lying on the ground. Maintain a safe distance from wires to prevent getting electrocuted.
- Avoid going near electric substations and do not climb over the fence that surround the substations. It's a federal offense.
- Do not throw objects onto the electric power lines.
- Do not hang any banners or signages on electric utility powerlines and poles.
- If you see anyone receiving an electric shock, do not touch the person. Call for 911.



DO NOT ATTACH TO POLES

Placing nails, posters, staples, garden hoses, cameras, or flags on utility poles may seem like a small gesture, but it is dangerous. Attaching these objects can cause injury to utility workers. A small nail can puncture fire retardant clothing, gloves, or safety gear and make linemen vulnerable to falling or possible electrocution.

When performing routine maintenance or responding to an outage, any unauthorized attachments will be removed to keep workers safe.

A Second Refrigerator Could be Pricey



An estimated 35 million households own at least two refrigerators, and an estimated six million households own more than two!

According to California's Consumer Energy Center, one large refrigerator is cheaper to run than two smaller ones. Typically, a second refrigerator is the household's 'old one'. The annual energy cost of a refrigerator built before 1990 is more than double that of a similarly sized model today. All that electricity adds up, accounting for up to 10 percent of your utility bill.

If you cannot part with your second refrigerator, make sure to keep it full. Most second refrigerators are plugged in all year but are only used a few times a year. A full fridge has less air to keep cool, so it doesn't have to work quite as hard.



Follow us!

@lccswfl



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

CUSTOMER
Survey

WINNER!

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

Last month's winners were Dennis Daley of Cape Coral, Dale Badder of St. James City, and Denise Doucette Torres of Cape Coral.

LCEC is a nonprofit corporation. Established in 1940, LCEC delivers power to more than 235,244 customers.

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