

# NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY

APRIL 18



*The sacrifices made, hours worked, and dedication does not go unnoticed.*

National Lineman Appreciation Day is celebrated April 18 to #thanklineman for their dedicated work! LCEC honors and thanks not just our dedicated line workers, but line workers around the world, for the imperative and dangerous work they do.

These hardworking men and women brave severe weather, life-threatening situations, and unique challenges to ensure the lights are on.

**Did you know?** *The power lineman trade began in 1879.*

## LCEC ANNUAL MEETING



The LCEC Annual Meeting is held every April at the LCEC campus in North Fort Myers. Members are welcome to attend this meeting where balloting information and Trustee Election results are announced. In addition to these important announcements, LCEC leaders give an overview on the accomplishments of the prior year while highlighting the strategic priorities and roadmap for the current year. Keep tuned to the May edition of LCEC News for more details about the 2023 Annual Meeting.

LCEC is a nonprofit corporation. Established in 1940, LCEC delivers power to more than 236,562 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



## Team LCEC at NAMIWalks!

LCEC is a proud supporter of NAMI of Lee, Charlotte, and Hendry Counties for the third year in a row! NAMI is a nonprofit organization that provides education, advocacy, and support at no cost for people living with mental illness in our community.

Despite the NamiWalks event being rescheduled to March, due to Hurricane Ian, Team LCEC raised \$1,420 and had 25 participants!

LCEC employees accompanied by their friends and families were eager to join the Walk across the Edison Bridge to raise awareness and help end the stigma of mental health.



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

Last month's winners were Christa Marlowe of Cape Coral, Janet Kovalich of North Fort Myers, and Sonia Diaz of Lehigh Acres.

## Taxes and Fees are included in your electric bill



LCEC delivers power to over 240,000 members over the span of six counties throughout Southwest Florida. LCEC is required by law to collect taxes and fees from residents and then remitted to governments within those jurisdictions.

- Local voter-approved surtaxes are combined with the local sales tax that utilities must collect and remit to the Department of Revenue each month.
- Governments have the authority to levy a public utility tax on the purchase of power, gas, water, and telecommunication services. Utilities are obligated to collect tax and remit ongoing payments to the government.
- Franchise fees are imposed by local governments as a means to collect additional

operational funds. The franchise agreement grants a utility the use of right-of-way's for facilities such as poles, pipes, and wires. Utilities collect the fees from customers and remit the funds to the government. <https://www.lcec.net/pdf/FF-website.pdf>

Taxes and fees are indicated separately on the electric bill as shown.

Current Service Detail		
Customer Charge		\$16.00
Energy Charge-Electric	800 kWh @ 0.07600	\$60.80
Energy Charge-Electric	800 kWh @ 0.08940	\$71.52
Energy Charge-Electric	718 kWh @ 0.07710	\$55.43
Power Cost Adjustment	1,718 kWh @ 0.05000 Public	\$85.90
Service Tax Cape Coral		\$3.58
OC PBT Fuel Cost Exemption		-\$1.58
Franchise Fee Cape Coral		\$5.00
Green Markets Tax		\$3.58
<b>Total Current Charges for this Location</b>		<b>\$306.31</b>

## How is your Equity processed?



Equity retirements are one of the benefits of belonging to a financially strong electric cooperative. There are more than 895 electric cooperatives in the nation and the same principles apply to equity administration to ensure compliance with laws, fairness, and consistency among members. LCEC continually reviews equity management and adjusts in the best interest of all members when needed.

A retirement is the payout of equity to active and former customers 20 to 30 years after it is allocated. Decisions about equity retirements are made by the Board of Trustees annually and are based on LCEC financial condition. When approved, retirements are paid in the form of a bill credit or check. LCEC is proud to have returned more than \$317 million in equity to customers over the years.

Electric distribution utilities typically operate within a 30-year financial cycle. Member equity is not cash until it is retired. It is in the form of credit for investment in the electric infrastructure. 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. Retiring member equity on or near the same type of cycle is best practice in the industry.

For more info about equity, visit [lcec.net/my-home/equity](http://lcec.net/my-home/equity)





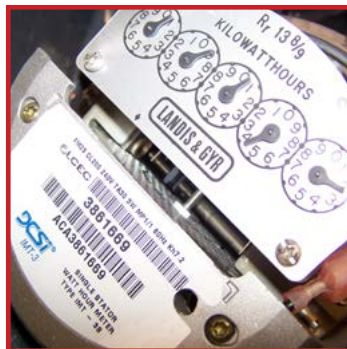
## Prevent mold and mildew in your unoccupied home

Our SWFL snowbirds will soon leave their local nest to head home for the summer. If you fall into this category, it is essential to prepare your home to prevent mold and mildew before you head north. Unoccupied homes need a small amount of air conditioning for humidity control. Mold and mildew growth begin when the relative humidity is consistently 70 percent or higher. LCEC energy experts recommend following at least one of the following techniques to guard against mold and mildew if you are leaving your home for the summer:

- For the highest level of security against mildew, install a timer on the A/C system, and set it to cycle for two hours every day.
- Install a humidistat on the A/C, and set it to cycle whenever indoor humidity exceeds 65 percent. This technique uses the least power. Please note that on new high-efficiency systems, a humidistat may be incorporated with the thermostat control system.
- Set the thermostat to 83 degrees Fahrenheit. This is the least efficient method and is recommended only for short or infrequent summer trips.

# Meter Tampering

LCEC uses automated meter reading technology, business intelligence reporting, and field investigations to detect meter cheaters and prevent the theft of electricity.



## DANGERS OF TAMPERING:

- Can result in injury or death by electrocution.
- Altering equipment can be a fire hazard and back-feed into the lines where crews are working, putting them in danger.

## CONSEQUENCES:

- In accordance with the Florida Public Service Commission guidelines and LCEC rate tariff, power is disconnected and the meter is removed immediately.
- A \$200 fee, equipment replacement charge, security deposit, current bill and restitution must be paid before power is restored.

Contact LCEC through [lcec.net](http://lcec.net) or 239-656-2300 if you suspect meter tampering. You could be saving lives with just one call or click!

# Call 811 before you dig

*Calling 811 is required by law. It's simple and free!*

The call to 811 should be made at least two full business days before beginning a project that requires digging on your property. When you call, all service providers with underground lines in the vicinity of the planned excavation are dispatched to mark the approximate location and type of underground utilities with paint flags.

It is not uncommon for workers to contact underground utility lines while excavating. The risk of injury, damage to equipment, causing a power outage, or impacting the environment is *very serious*. Never assume the location of underground utilities. Call 811 to be safe and avoid breaking the law.



# Believe it or not... blinking lights are a good thing



It can be frustrating and inconvenient, but blinking lights are actually a good thing! Blinking lights or momentary outages are the result of a disturbance that is detected on the electric system. The cause can range from a car accident, to a squirrel, to a tree branch. When lights blink, it is an indication that LCEC protective devices are operating correctly. When something contacts an energized line, it creates a fault or short circuit. If the fault or short circuit is temporary, power is restored immediately. The protective device will sometimes operate more than once to clear the line of the disturbance and avoid a prolonged outage. If the line is not cleared, it will be de-energized to protect equipment from damage and ensure safety. Unfortunately, this protective measure may cause lights to flicker and clocks on stoves and microwaves to reset. If blinking lights make you batty, you might consider investing in battery backups for your electric devices.



## AUTO PAY:

A time-saving option that will automatically deduct your payment from your bank account on the due date of the bill. Funds must be drawn from US banks only. Enroll through [SmartHub](http://SmartHub).

## PAY BY PHONE:

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

## PAY ONLINE:

Pay online when you log into Account Access on [lcec.net](http://lcec.net) or SmartHub. Checking/savings account payments are FREE and can post immediately to your LCEC account or be scheduled for a later date. Third-party service fee of \$4 applies.

## WALK-IN PAY STATIONS:

Visit [www.lcec.net](http://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.

## U.S. MAIL:

Send your payment in the envelope enclosed with your bill to: LCEC, P.O. Box 31477, Tampa, FL 33631.

## PAYMENT ASSISTANCE

LCEC works with many 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.

# BE READY FOR A DISASTER

A disaster can strike at any time - sometimes without warning. It is important for every Floridian, especially citizens with disabilities and other special needs, to plan ahead for an emergency situation and know what to do in the event of an emergency.

## MAKE A PLAN

- Evacuations and Shelters
- Florida Special Needs Registry

More information on disaster planning for persons with disabilities can be found at:

- Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities
- Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities, Inc.
- National Organization on Disability
- Special needs Registry

<https://snr.flhealthresponse.com/>

## DISASTER SUPPLY KIT CHECKLIST

General	First Aid	Important Documents
<input type="checkbox"/> Two week minimum supply of medication, regularly used medical supplies, and a list of allergies <input type="checkbox"/> A list of the style, serial number, and manufacturer information of required medical devices <input type="checkbox"/> Batteries <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlights <input type="checkbox"/> Do not use candles <input type="checkbox"/> NOAA Weather Radio Battery operated or hand cranked <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Banks and ATMs may not be available after a storm <input type="checkbox"/> Cell phone chargers <input type="checkbox"/> Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children	<input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Manual <input type="checkbox"/> Sterile adhesive bandages of different sizes <input type="checkbox"/> Sterile gauze pads <input type="checkbox"/> Hypoallergenic adhesive tape <input type="checkbox"/> Triangular bandages <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors <input type="checkbox"/> Tweezers <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing needle <input type="checkbox"/> Moistened towelettes <input type="checkbox"/> Antiseptic <input type="checkbox"/> Disinfectant wipes <input type="checkbox"/> Hand sanitizer <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer <input type="checkbox"/> Tube of petroleum jelly <input type="checkbox"/> Safety pins <input type="checkbox"/> Soap <input type="checkbox"/> Latex gloves <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen <input type="checkbox"/> Aspirin or other pain reliever <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-diarrheal medicine <input type="checkbox"/> Antacid <input type="checkbox"/> Laxative <input type="checkbox"/> Cotton balls <input type="checkbox"/> Q-tips	<input type="checkbox"/> Insurance cards <input type="checkbox"/> Medical records <input type="checkbox"/> Banking information <input type="checkbox"/> Credit card numbers <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of social security cards <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of birth and/or marriage certificates <input type="checkbox"/> Other personal documents <input type="checkbox"/> Set of car, house, and office keys <input type="checkbox"/> Service animal I.D., veterinary records, and proof of ownership <input type="checkbox"/> Information about where you receive medication, the name of the drug, and dosage <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Will <input type="checkbox"/> Items should be kept in a water proof container
<b>Phone Numbers</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain a list of important phone numbers including: County emergency management office, evacuation sites, doctors, banks, schools, veterinarian, a number for out-of-town contacts, friends and family	<b>Food and Water</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Food Non-perishable packaged or canned food and beverages, snack foods, juices, baby food, and any special dietary items in last at least 7 days <input type="checkbox"/> Water 1 gallon per person per day <input type="checkbox"/> Non-electric can opener <input type="checkbox"/> Paper plates <input type="checkbox"/> Napkins <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic cups <input type="checkbox"/> Utensils	<b>Vehicle</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Keep your motor vehicle tanks filled with gasoline
<b>Clothing</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Rain gear such as jackets, hats, umbrellas and rain boots <input type="checkbox"/> Sturdy shoes or boots and work gloves	<b>Special Needs Items</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Specialty items for infants, small children, the elderly, and family members with disabilities	<b>Pet Care Items</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Pet food and water to last at least 7 days <input type="checkbox"/> Proper identification <input type="checkbox"/> Medical records/microchip information <input type="checkbox"/> A carrier or cage <input type="checkbox"/> Muzzle and leash <input type="checkbox"/> Water and food bowls <input type="checkbox"/> Medications <input type="checkbox"/> Supplies for your service animal

## Follow us!

@cceswfl     

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



Did you know you can report an outage in SmartHub?

Visit [lcec.net](http://lcec.net) to enroll in SmartHub today!

[lcec.net](http://lcec.net)



For a list of other convenient services that LCEC provides, visit [lcec.net](http://lcec.net).