

# Energizing our community

LCEC has been out and about in the community supporting fundraising, awareness, and educational efforts through much-needed sponsorship or volunteer participation.

Following are a few recent events:

- Fragile X Syndrome Touch-A-Truck
- Gulf Citrus Grower's Gala
- Lee Building Industry Association BBQ, Bands & Brew
- American Heart Association Heart Ball
- Lee County Sheriff's Office Do the Right Thing

LCEC doesn't just deliver power to this community. We live here, play here, and are focused on supporting and sustaining Southwest Florida.



## LCEC is a proud Member of Touchstone Energy Cooperative

LCEC is dedicated to providing reliable, cost-competitive electricity with an exceptional member engagement experience. To enhance that experience, LCEC is a proud member of 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 educating cooperative members and employees on the cooperative difference.



LCEC is a nonprofit corporation. Established in 1940, LCEC delivers power to more than 239,072 customers.

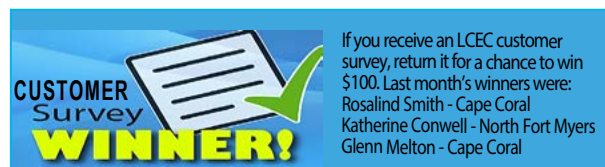
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In the early days of meteorology, storms were named with a latitude/longitude designation. This was difficult to remember, and difficult to communicate, which caused errors.

During the Second World War, military meteorologists began to use women's names for storms. The naming method was so productive that in 1953 it was adopted by the National Hurricane Center.

Using names for these storms makes it much easier for meteorologists, researchers, emergency response workers, ship captains, and citizens to communicate about specific hurricanes and be clearly understood. Some names are officially retired because of the level of destruction they cause.



## LCEC HAS A HURRICANE PLAN

***LCEC is ready to respond quickly and safely if a hurricane heads to Southwest Florida.***

LCEC cultivates relationships with power line and tree-trimming contractors, fuel companies, material vendors, food service vendors, other cooperatives and local agencies for back-up resources.

1. The LCEC plan first calls for damage assessment. This includes physical inspection of our facilities.
2. Next is restoration of critical circuits such as hospitals, traffic signals, shelters, law enforcement.
3. Then, power is restored to the largest number of customers.
4. Lastly, individual services in small pockets or services that need to be reconnected after repair to their home electrical system are restored.

*Customers can rest assured knowing LCEC works around the clock during restoration situations to ensure that customers get their lights back on as quickly as possible.*

### AFTER A MAJOR EVENT... HERE'S HOW THE RESTORATION PROCESS WORKS



## Franchise fees and taxes collected through the LCEC bill

Some customers may notice line items on their electric bill not related to LCEC or power supply costs. Utilities are required by law to collect taxes and fees from residents and remit them to governments within the appropriate jurisdictions. In 2022, LCEC collected approximately \$53 million in fees and taxes for local and state government. These fees and taxes include:

- **Franchise Fees:** Collected for the right to utilize rights-of-way for the purpose of supplying electric service. All monies collected are paid to the city or county.
- **Gross Receipts Tax:** Levied by the State and remitted to the State monthly.
- **Public Service Tax:** Levied by a city or county to generate additional revenue for a specific purpose. Monies collected by LCEC are paid to that municipality.
- **Sales Tax:** Levied by the State.
- **Surtax:** Combined with state sales tax that is collected and remitted to the Department of Revenue monthly.

Franchise Fee	
City of Cape Coral	3%
Everglades City	3%
City of Sanibel	3%
Lee County	4.5%
Public Service Tax	
City of Cape Coral	7%
Everglades City	8%

Visit [lcec.net](http://lcec.net) and click on  
My Home>How to Read Your Bill



## Estimated Time of Restoration WHEN YOU NEED IT!

Need information about an [LCEC](#) outage? Get an Estimated Time of Restoration (ETR) here:

- View the LCEC outage map on [lcec.net](#) and SmartHub.
- Visit SmartHub under Contact Us/Track Issue Status.
- Call 239-656-2300 and select Option 1.
- Text STATUS to 844-948-2817.

An ETR is generated based on historical data and weather patterns. Customers must be enrolled in SmartHub and have a working mobile number in the Managed Contacts section of SmartHub to use the texting feature. Check out [LCEC.net](#) for more information.



## GENERATOR Safety

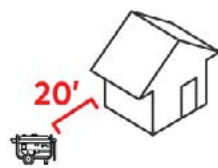


In our region, outages sometimes can occur due to weather or the elements. Having an emergency generator for temporary use allows necessary appliances to continue running, such as the refrigerator, lights, and medical equipment. However, if not used properly, they can be dangerous. Here are a few tips when using a generator:

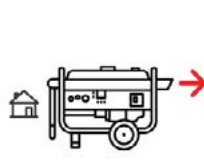
- A permanent generator must have a transfer switch, (This prevents energy from back feeding onto the electric grid and becoming dangerous to a lineman or others.)
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Operate outdoors with plenty of ventilation. Generators give off deadly carbon monoxide gas.
- Do not plug a generator into the wall. This will create a back feed.
- Turn the generator on before plugging in appliances.
- Turn off the generator and cool before refueling.



Never run it in an enclosed space



Always run it at least 20 feet from your home



Always direct exhaust away from your home



## Be a fan of the fan during warmer months

Ceiling fans in Southwest Florida are a common household accessory. They can also be very useful or very costly depending on how you use them.

The primary function of a ceiling fan is to move air around so it feels a few degrees cooler when the air from the fan hits your skin. However, a ceiling fan doesn't produce cool air, you only benefit from a ceiling fan if you are in the room.

Ceiling fans should be used alone or in conjunction with an air conditioner. If you use them both, you can set your thermostat two to four degrees warmer without sacrificing comfort. For each degree you raise the thermostat, you'll save about eight percent on your cooling cost!

Follow us!

@lcecswf



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/LeeCountyElectricCooperativeLCECSwf/featured](https://www.youtube.com/c/LeeCountyElectricCooperativeLCECSwf/featured)

## RELIABILITY INVESTMENTS PAY OFF



LCEC works year-round to ensure the electric distribution system is resilient and ready to withstand major storms by investing in hardening and technology. It is a challenge LCEC is focused on to provide reliable power



not only during storms, but when skies are blue. The expense of designing and constructing a strong system, supply chain disruptions, labor shortages, and scheduling constraints are also some of the factors that

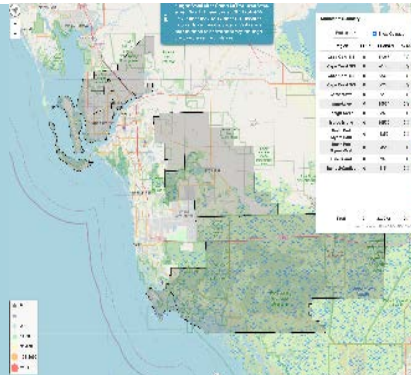


impact electric rates. Balance improving reliability while also managing costs to maintain reasonable rates have been part of the LCEC mission since 1940.

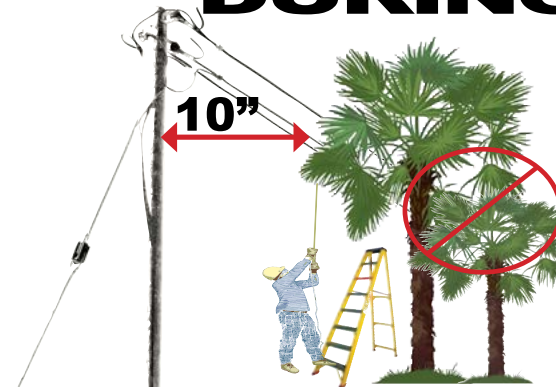
## The LCEC Outage Map

LCEC works diligently to keep the lights on for our customers, but power outages can, and do, occur. With storm season fast approaching it is important to keep customers educated and at ease. If an outage occurs, customers can visit [lcec.net](#) to view the outage map. This map is intended to keep customers informed about outages by zip code, region, or county. **Outage numbers are estimates at the time the map is updated and accuracy is not guaranteed for official publication purposes.**

To view the outage map and learn more about LCEC's restoration process, visit [lcec.net](#).



## STAY TEN FEET CLEAR DURING TREE CARE



**YOUR SAFETY  
IS OUR  
PRIORITY**

