

# CALL FOR Environmental Funding Award APPLICATIONS

Annually in March and September, LCEC awards environmental funding to non-profit agencies working to help build a sustainable future across Southwest Florida. September 1 is the deadline to apply for a 2023 LCEC Environmental Funding Award. Visit [www.lcec.net/about-lcec/community-and-education/environment-for-environmental-program-details](http://www.lcec.net/about-lcec/community-and-education/environment-for-environmental-program-details) and to download the application. The March 2023 LCEC Environmental Funding Award recipients included the Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, Friends of the Cape Coral Environment, and Cape Coral Wildlife Trust.

More than  
**\$250,000**  
has been  
awarded since  
the program's  
inception 10 years  
ago.



## LCEC celebrates Touchstone membership!

LCEC is dedicated to providing reliable, cost-competitive electricity with an exceptional member engagement experience. To enhance that experience, LCEC is now a 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 more than 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.



## Out and About

LCEC has been busy in the community! LCEC employees attended the **32nd Annual Partners in Education State of Our Schools Breakfast** as a proud supporter of The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools.



As a proud sponsor for over 20 years, an LCEC employee spoke at a **Lee County Sheriff's Office Do the Right Thing Ceremony**.



LCEC, along with other sponsors, presented local high school seniors with scholarship money at the **31st Annual Excellence in Education Awards**, hosted by the Chamber of Commerce of Cape Coral.



LCEC employees also attended the **United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades Appreciation Breakfast** to celebrate the time they gave volunteering to the organization.



## Notable career milestones

LCEC is proud to announce, Public Relations Director, Karen Ryan, APR, CPRC was awarded with the 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award and Media Specialist, Shannon Williamson received the 2023 Rising Star Award at the Southwest Florida Chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association (FPRA) 2023 Local Image Awards! Ryan has 27 years of communications experience at LCEC and Williamson joined the LCEC team three years ago while earning her degree from Florida Gulf Coast University.

LCEC is a nonprofit corporation. Established in 1940, LCEC delivers power to more than 240,258 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)



If you receive an LCEC customer survey, return it for a chance to win \$100. Last month's winners were:  
Daniel Maldonado - Cape Coral  
Charles Pelletier - Cape Coral  
Eliesel Martinez - Lehigh Acres

## POWER COST ADJUSTMENT (PCA) DECREASE

A Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) decrease was implemented for all LCEC customers effective June 1. The decrease is a result of lowered purchased power costs passed on from the LCEC power supplier and cost recovery forecasts and projections. Power cost adjustments increase or decrease as the cost to generate power rises and falls.

**There are no margins (profit) earned on the power cost portion of the customer bill. It is simply a pass-through to the power provider.** Power cost adjustments are not unique to LCEC. Energy suppliers have a monthly adjustment based on variable fuel costs related to power production.

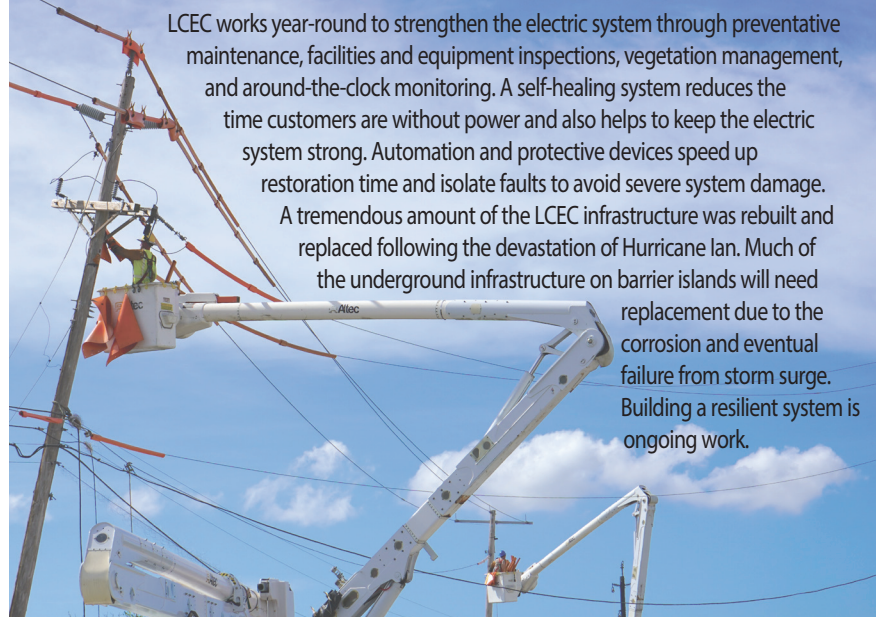
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER BILL PER 1,000 KWH	
Customer Charge.....	\$18
kWh Cost.....	\$81.20
Power Cost Adjustment .....	\$41.00
Total.....	\$140.20
<b>(DECREASE OF \$14.50)</b>	

LCEC is able to manage the base rate portion of the bill through efficiencies, technology, and a close watch on the bottom line. LCEC rates remain competitive within the region.

LCEC partners with United Way to offer energy assistance through the [Power to Share Program](#). The program is funded by LCEC employees and customers to help qualified customers in need of electric bill payment assistance.

## Storm hardening the LCEC infrastructure

LCEC works year-round to strengthen the electric system through preventative maintenance, facilities and equipment inspections, vegetation management, and around-the-clock monitoring. A self-healing system reduces the time customers are without power and also helps to keep the electric system strong. Automation and protective devices speed up restoration time and isolate faults to avoid severe system damage. A tremendous amount of the LCEC infrastructure was rebuilt and replaced following the devastation of Hurricane Ian. Much of the underground infrastructure on barrier islands will need replacement due to the corrosion and eventual failure from storm surge. Building a resilient system is ongoing work.



## Helping prepare for hurricane season

To help customers prepare for the 2023 storm season, LCEC participated in the Inaugural Cape Coral Hurricane Preparedness Expo held at Mercola Market. This free event was open to all residents and included City officials, local organizations, and businesses providing giveaways and storm tips for before, during, and after a major storm.



Local legislators and emergency management officials were also invited to review the LCEC emergency response plan and Hurricane Ian after action report.



You can visit [lcec.net](http://lcec.net) to download the latest LCEC Hurricane Guide and begin your storm preparation today!





# Electricity + Water = Dangerous Duo

Electricity and water do not mix. Below are essential reminders to stay safe:



- Never handle electrical wires and plugs with wet hands. Even damp hands can mean serious danger.
- Always keep electrical devices and extension cords away from water sources and puddles.
- Hire a professional contractor to install electrical connections in water-prone areas like a kitchen, bathroom, and swimming pool.
- Utilize battery-operated appliances for areas near water sources.

Visit [lcec.net](http://lcec.net) for more ways to stay safe around electricity.



## AFTER THE STORM



Power outages occur for various reasons. Outages may be attributed to storms, vehicle accidents, contact with underground wires, fallen trees or wildlife. In most cases, a power outage impacts a small number of customers and is restored quickly.

When widespread outages occur, LCEC employees respond as quickly as possible. The automated outage system tracks customer calls, and field crews are dispatched to the impacted area. In the rare event of an outage, safely restoring power in a timely manner continues to be one of our corporate goals. Restoration begins with repairs that will restore service to the largest number of customers in the least amount of time. Transmission lines and substations are repaired first, followed by distribution lines that feed neighborhoods; tap lines and individual service lines are then repaired to restore power to individual customers who may still be without power.

### Safety is the Priority

During disaster response, and every day, safety is everyone's responsibility. While LCEC and all of our responding partners are laser-focused on restoring power as quickly as possible, safety is always the priority. Keeping customers and workers safe is critical.

### Stay clear of downed power lines

Puddles of water contacting downed lines are dangerous.

Keep LCEC phone lines clear for emergency calls by only calling to report safety threats.



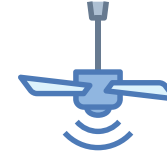
# Ways to Conserve this summer!

Saving energy helps save the planet and hard-earned money. Changing usage habits is an easy adjustment that pays off in many ways.



1

Use natural light instead of turning on lamps.



2

Turn off ceiling fans when not in the room.



3

Grill and avoid using the oven or stove.



4

Dry clothes outside, not in the dryer.



5

When out of the house for two or more hours, turn the thermostat up two degrees.

## Do we have your digits?



When customer contact info changes, it is essential to enter an update through SmartHub. Without updated contact info, LCEC is unable to provide information regarding equity returns, system upgrades, and other important news. An accurate phone number is essential when reporting an outage so that LCEC can respond as quickly as possible.

## Follow us!

@lcecsfwl    

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

## Many factors can lead to a higher electric bill

**Warmer temperatures outside mean the AC works harder to cool inside.** Keeping the thermostat at 78 degrees or higher and changing air filters consistently will help conserve energy.

**No two households use energy the same way.** The size of the home, age of AC and appliances, number of people at home for extended time, a swimming pool or hot tub, and many other factors contribute to usage.

**Monthly billing cycles vary due to the number of days in a month.** Check the number of days billed and the number of kWh used in a billing cycle.

LCEC offers online tools like Calc-U-Saver and SmartHub usage tracking to help manage your electric bill as much as possible. Visit [www.lcec.net](http://www.lcec.net) for more information.

## Reduce your Energy bill

