

Apply now to further your environmental mission

Don't miss the chance to apply for a 2023 LCEC Environmental Funding Award. The deadline to apply is September 1. Interested organizations are encouraged to visit www.lcec.net/about-lcec/community-and-education/environment to download the application and learn more about eligibility. This program was developed in 2013 as a way for LCEC to further support, protect, and celebrate our precious environment. Funding is awarded twice a year with deadlines happening in March and September. More than \$250,000 has been awarded since the program's inception. LCEC members matter and so does the precious paradise we call home!



Future Leaders Tour LCEC

Each year LCEC welcomes students from the Chamber of Commerce of Cape Coral Junior Leadership program. The program is for students entering their senior year of high school with a week-long, intensive look at how a city works. The focus is on building future leaders in the community and helping with possible career opportunities upon graduation. As a proud sponsor and supporter, LCEC guided 12 students from the 2023 class around the LCEC campus for a behind-the-scenes look at an electric cooperative.

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/LeeCountyElectricCooperativeLCCSwfl/featured

Survey WINNER!

If you receive an LCEC customer survey, return it for a chance to win \$100. Last month's winners were:
Hazel Kray - N. Ft. Myers
Marina South Shore Condo Assoc Inc. - Cape Coral
Claudia Campuzano - Immokalee

LCEC NEWS

Touchstone Energy
Cooperatives

AUGUST 2023



HOW POWER IS RESTORED

Restoration following a major storm is executed in defined steps. At the forefront of these steps is safety for members and line workers alike.

STEP ONE

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

This includes physical inspection of electric facilities. Once completed, LCEC and contract crews begin repairs.

STEP TWO

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

LCEC repairs main circuits and restores critical facilities such as hospitals, police, and fire stations.

STEP THREE

QUICKLY AND SAFELY

With main infrastructure operating, work begins on lines that restore power to the greatest number of customers as soon as possible.

STEP FOUR

REMAINING OUTAGES

Power is restored to the small pockets or individuals still without power.

In addition to these four steps, LCEC has a clearly defined restoration plan which includes specific roles for all 400+ employees and hundreds of mutual aid workers, suppliers, and vendors. These dedicated individuals work around the clock until all power is restored. Rest assured that LCEC is ready for anything that comes our way this storm season!



Membership matters!

Cooperatives can look like any other business from the outside, but when you take a look inside you see they are primarily interested in the benefits and services they can provide their members, not the profit. People and businesses receiving electricity from LCEC are more than just customers, they are members too. The sole purpose for the business is to serve LCEC members.

Through LCEC, members benefit from these cooperative partnerships:

1. EARNED EQUITY - LCEC

is not focused on earning a profit for investors. Net margins aren't transferred into a general fund to be used for non-utility related projects. The business operates at cost and surplus revenues are allocated to members in the form of equity.



2. GOVERNED BY MEMBERS-

Every LCEC member has a vote in selecting Trustees to govern the organization.



Trustees set policies and procedures that are implemented by employees in the day-to-day business operations. They actively participate in decision making and have financial oversight.

3. COMMUNITY - LCEC

helps improve the quality of life through economic development and revitalization projects, job creation, and assistance in wellness, educational, and environmental programs.



Helping Feed the Community!

LCEC recently teamed up with Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida, Inc. for a drive-in food distribution at Ocean Church in Cape Coral. This marks the third food distribution event LCEC has taken part in since the new year to help and serve the community. Harry Chapin Food Bank feeds a quarter of a million people each month in Southwest Florida including Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee counties where many LCEC members live. LCEC upholds its core values of energizing the community by taking an active role in making our communities a better place to work and live. Visit harrychapinfoodbank.org to learn more about opportunities to give back in your area.



LCEC is a nonprofit corporation. Established in 1940, LCEC delivers power to more than 241,182 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

Help those in need by rounding up your bill!

LCEC and the United Way are committed to helping people in our community improve their overall quality of life through long-lasting change.

Power to Share by Rounding Up allows participating employees and customers to round up their monthly electric bill to the nearest dollar. One-hundred percent of the donated funds are administered by United Way to help pay the electric bill of someone in need. Customers can enroll and opt out easily through LCEC [SmartHub](#), online at [lcec.net](#) or over the phone by calling LCEC Customer Care at 239-656-2300.



THE SUNNY SIDE OF ELECTRICITY

Solar power continues to gain popularity for many reasons. It is a renewable energy source that reduces carbon emissions while reducing the electric bill. Solar is something LCEC is familiar with. In fact, the LCEC power supplier has the largest fleet of solar generation in Florida! Solar is part of a diverse fuel mix which is beneficial in growing a sustainable energy supply. To further embrace solar, LCEC has a Net-Metering Program which is open to residential and commercial members. Participation in the program includes a credit for excess generation while providing a safe interconnection process for members and LCEC workers. Visit [lcec.net](#) to learn more about the LCEC Net-Metering Program.

Dish out ELECTRIC SAVINGS



Dishwashers save time, water, and electricity. ENERGY STAR® dishwashers are the best bet for savings since they must meet energy efficiency standards to earn this designation. It is estimated that ENERGY STAR® dishwashers use approximately 12 percent less energy and 30 percent less water than a standard dishwasher. To further your electric savings:

PASS ON PRE-RINSING

The latest and greatest ENERGY STAR® dishwashers are so efficient that pre-rinsing is not needed. Simply scrape away your excess food and load.

LOAD PROPERLY

Only run your dishwasher when it is full. Do not overload or block any moving parts.

Set Usage Alerts

Once you are enrolled in SmartHub, you have the power to easily set usage alerts!

Power Usage Alerts send you an email and/or text message notification when your energy usage exceeds the maximum and/or minimum threshold set by you. This allows you to change habits to reduce your bill if desired or to identify issues while you may be away from home.

Tip: Analyze your usage to determine what thresholds will work best for you. View your monthly bills (located in Billing History) and the average number of kilowatt hours (kWh) used per month and divide by 30.



Select eco-mode

Most ENERGY STAR® dishwashers have an “eco-mode” which automatically detects how much water and energy is needed for the load. If there is no eco-mode, select the setting which best fits your cleaning needs without overconsuming electricity.

INVEST IN RINSE AID

Using a rinse aid helps dry dishes quicker while preventing spotting.

AIR-DRY OVER HEAT-DRY

Most dishwashers have an air-dry option. Select this option over heat-dry to reduce energy waste.

What is PCA?

A power cost adjustment decrease just in time for summer!

The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) is a separate line item on the electric bill. The charge is directly related to the cost of power from the LCEC power supplier. Following is more cool energy saving info

Where do the funds go?

LCEC is a not-for-profit electric cooperative in business to serve its members. There are no margins earned on the power cost portion of the customer bill, it is simply a passthrough to the power supplier. Since the PCA portion of the bill is based solely on the cost of power, when costs decline, customers will also see a decline in the power cost adjustment on their bill. LCEC recently reduced the PCA.



High bill in the summer?

Southwest Florida is currently experiencing the warmest months of the year with record high temperatures. This can cause air conditioners (AC) to work harder. AC usage can account for more than 50 percent of the total cooling costs.



Tips for reducing the bill:

- Set thermostat at 78°F
- Change or clean air filters monthly
- Utilize SmartHub usage tracking
- Turn fans off when the room is not occupied
- Check out LCEC Virtual Energy Audit: Calc-U-Saver



Don't be a METER CHEATER

Stealing electricity is extremely dangerous and illegal. The electric meter is the point where electricity enters the home. Tampering with a meter can result in injury or death by electrocution. Tampering with electric equipment can also be a fire hazard and back-feed into the lines where crews are working, putting the lives of linemen at risk.

In addition to being dangerous, stealing electricity is a costly crime. Meter cheaters face a \$200 meter tampering fee, equipment replacement charge, security deposit, and restitution. All which must be paid before power is reconnected to the meter. Stealing is also a crime punishable by legal prosecution.

If you suspect that someone is stealing electricity, contact LCEC at [www.lcec.net](#) and click on Customer Care or call 239-656-2300 or 1-800-599-2356.



SMOOTH SAILING

LCEC reminds all boaters to avoid coming into contact with power lines. As you remember your sunscreen, towels, and snacks: don't forget the most important part of boating – safety! Not only does power line contact pose a risk of power interruptions, it could mean serious injuries or fatality.

- To avoid hitting power lines, check nautical maps for overhead line clearances, and stay in the main channel.
- Be sure to keep at least 10 feet distance between your boat and power lines.
- If your boat comes in contact with a power line, *do not* jump into the water! The water could be energized and dangerous. Remain calm and stay in the boat, but do not touch anything metal until help arrives and the boat is no longer in contact with the line.
- While sailboats make up a small percentage of the vessels on Southwest Florida's waterways, they do account for occasional power outages.

