

## LCEC attends the NISC Large Utility Committee meeting

The Large Utility Committee meets twice a year to advise National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC), the LCEC technology provider, about the development of its software applications related to the electric cooperative industry. Over 250 people from across the nation were in attendance for this important meeting.

LCEC Chief Financial Officer leads the Committee's Financial Subcommittee, and LCEC Member Programs Manager leads the Marketing Subcommittee. Other attendees included leaders and representatives from LCEC Customer Care Operations.



LCEC is a proud supporter of many local organizations and proud to be a part of this year's Island Hopper Songwriter Fest to help bring support to some of the most impacted areas from Hurricane Ian!

Island Hopper Songwriter Fest is a 10-day music festival in Southwest Florida featuring performances by the greatest singer-songwriters from Nashville and nationwide. Most shows are free with the exception of a few ticketed experiences. Below is this year's schedule:

**Captiva Island: Sept. 22-24**  
**Cape Coral: Sept. 25-26**  
**Downtown Fort Myers: Sept. 27-28**  
**Fort Myers Beach: Sept. 29-Oct. 1**

For more information please visit <https://www.island-hopperfest.visitfortmyers.com/>. LCEC looks forward to seeing everyone there!



If you receive an LCEC customer survey, return it for a chance to win \$100. Last month's winners were:  
Alnareier Perez-Lehigh Acres  
Robert Radosevich-North Fort Myers  
Etheleene Williams-North Fort Myers

## LCEC NEWS

Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives SEPTEMBER 2023

### Power Cost Adjustment (PCA)

A second Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) decrease was implemented for all LCEC customers on August 1. This decrease is a result of lower 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.

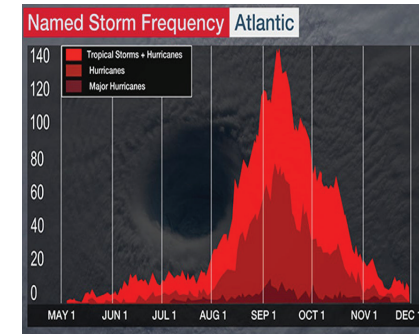
a close watch on the bottom line. LCEC rates remain competitive within the region.

#### Residential Customer Bill per 1,000 kWh

Base Rate	\$99.20
Power Cost Adjustment	\$36.80
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$136.00 (decrease of \$4.20)</b>

This brings a total Power Cost Adjustment decrease of \$18.70 per 1,000 kWh since June of this year.

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 bill payment assistance.



### September is the most active month of the Atlantic hurricane season

The peak of hurricane season falls on September 10. The two biggest reasons tropical activity tends to peak in early-to-mid September is that the **Atlantic is warmer** and **wind shear is weaker**. Last year's Hurricane Ian is fresh in everyone's mind and a reminder of how devastating a storm can be to Southwest Florida.

During severe weather events, when large outages are likely to occur, there is no need to report an outage. In the rare case of a widespread outage, LCEC is already aware of the interruption in power and is working as quickly and safely as possible to restore power.

Customers with the SmartHub mobile app can report an outage simply by texting **OUT to (844) 948-2817**.

**FACT: During hurricane season, the Sunshine State faces greater hurricane risk than any other state in the nation!**

## Helping feed the community!



LCEC teamed up with Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida, Inc. again for another drive-in food distribution at St. Raphael Catholic Church in Lehigh Acres. This marks the fourth food distribution event LCEC has taken part in this year to help 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](http://harrychapinfoodbank.org) to learn more about opportunities to give back in your area.

### LCEC is quick to address concerns from residents

#### Blinking lights can be a sign the electric system protection plan is working

High temperatures and record energy usage resulted in frequent blinks in the Golden Gate area last month. Construction of a new substation and a rebuild of the power lines serving the area, were already underway to provide a long-term solution. The enhancements will be completed in 2024 to further strengthen electric reliability. To address current concerns, LCEC was able to quickly mobilize additional equipment to increase capacity and vegetation management crews were deployed to reduce interference from trees.



LCEC understands customer frustration when momentary power interruption occurs. While power blinks can be annoying, they are part of an automated system of protective devices that can prevent longer, more severe power interruptions. Automated technology is utilized to minimize outages to the greatest extent possible.





## LCEC is governed by a Board of Trustees

As a cooperative, LCEC is governed by a 10-member Board of Trustees who are LCEC customers. Board members are elected by LCEC members, and represent the geographical area in which they reside. Board members serve three-year terms which are staggered to provide continuity.

Board of Trustees set policy, consider rates and financial performance, approve planning criteria for electric infrastructure, ensure business continuity, and make governance decisions in the best interest of members in mind. Trustees have business experience, the ability to interpret operating and financial reports, community leadership history, and sensitivity to customer concerns and attitudes, and lack of potential conflict of interest, and various other skills useful in overseeing a multi-million-dollar electric company.

Learn more about the Board of Trustees on [lcec.net](http://lcec.net).



## NET METERING

The LCEC Net Metering Program was created for environmentally-minded members who seek to harness the power of the sun to:

- Offset electricity costs
- Reduce dependence on fossil fuels
- Receive credit for excess energy left over at the end of the calendar year
- Use renewable energy sources
- Reduce healthcare costs associated with air pollution

This program enables LCEC members with a renewable generation system (RGS) to offset all or part of energy usage by interconnecting to the power grid. FAQs and service standards can be found on the Net Metering tab at [lcec.net](http://lcec.net).

## Warmer temperatures can drive an electric bill to increase



When it is hot outside the AC is working harder to cool the inside. Setting 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, number of windows with sun exposure, and

many other factors contribute to usage. The number of days billed and the number of kWh used in a billing cycle vary due to the number of days in a month.

There are many factors that can lead to an increase in your electric bill. SmartHub allows customers to monitor energy usage to help manage electric bills as much as possible. Visit [www.lcec.net](http://www.lcec.net) for more information.



## GENERATOR SAFETY SAVES LIVES! Make safety your priority.

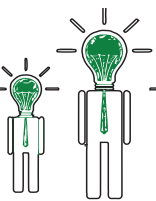
Do you own or intend to buy a generator for hurricane season? While generators are extremely beneficial during prolonged power outages, they can also be dangerous if used incorrectly.

Carbon monoxide poisoning from engine exhaust, electric shock or electrocution, and fire are the most serious risks. Carbon monoxide produced by generators can quickly cause incapacitation and death; however, the gas cannot be seen or smelled. Following are generator safety tips:

- Install battery-operated carbon monoxide alarms.
- Never use indoors; opening doors and windows or utilizing fans will not prevent carbon monoxide buildup.
- Place away from windows, doors, and vents where carbon monoxide could enter the home.
- Check the labels on the lighting, appliances, and equipment you intend to connect to the generator to calculate the amount of electricity required.
- Choose a generator that has more power than needed.
- Always plug appliances directly into the generator.
- To avoid electrocution, keep the generator dry and do not use in wet conditions.

Learn more about generator safety and GenerLink at [www.lcec.net/GenerLink](http://www.lcec.net/GenerLink).

## Membership matters - EQUITY



Equity is not money in the bank. Simply put, LCEC equity represents a member's contribution to the efficient operation of the electrical system. As member's pay bills, these payments go directly towards building and sustaining infrastructure, procuring materials, and services, recruiting and retaining engaged employees, implementing technology, and beyond.

As a not-for-profit, any funds in excess of what is necessary to keep LCEC operating are allocated back to members in the form of an equity credit. This is just one of the many ways LCEC membership matters.

Over the years, LCEC has been proud to be in the position to return more than \$322 million in equity to members. In 2023 alone, LCEC returned more than \$5 million to members!

## TO BEAT THE SUMMER HEAT!

### ENERGY SAVING TIPS

### Summer temperatures are reaching record highs but your electric bill doesn't have to.

Following are a few ways to save this summer:

- Set home thermostat to 78 or above when leaving for a period of four hours or more.
- Take cooking outdoors by using a grill instead of the oven.
- Fix leaking doors and windows by resealing and caulking.
- Make sure air filters are clean and replaced regularly.
- Close blinds and drapes during the day to keep the heat out.
- Schedule regular a/c maintenance



Monitor your usage on SmartHub today to help manage usage and watch the savings happen.

## Enroll in SmartHub Today!

More than half of LCEC members 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](http://lcec.net) to enroll in SmartHub today!



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