

# 12 years of giving with the LCEC 5k For United Way

LCEC was proud to hold the 12th Annual LCEC 5K Run/Walk and Kids Fun Run to benefit the United Way, Saturday, January 6, 2024 at Jaycee Park in Cape Coral. All proceeds help fund more than 90 partner agencies in the Southwest Florida area. To date, the event has raised over \$35,000 for the United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades County. The support of community participants and LCEC volunteers make it possible to give to those in our community that need it most.



## RIGHT TREE RIGHT PLACE

LCEC partnered with Duke Energy and the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) to help restore portions of the shoreline at Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park that were damaged by Hurricane Ian. Florida's mangrove ecosystems serve a vital role in the overall health of the state's coastal estuaries.



More than 25 volunteers planted 500 red and black mangroves across a 4,400 square foot portion of the park. The mangroves were donated by Duke Energy Crystal River Mariculture Center, a hatchery dedicated to environmental conservation. Additionally, Sunshine Ace Hardware donated shovels to aid in the restoration project.

## CAPE CORAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CLASS OF 2023

Congratulations to LCEC employees Shannon and Sam on completing the Leadership Cape Coral Class of 2023 program!

This intensive hands-on program is a proactive 13 week initiative designed to help participants hone leader skills, learn about the Cape Coral infrastructure and the importance of corporate stewardship, and establish connections with other local leaders.



# Membership Matters



In 2023, LCEC partnered with Touchstone Energy Cooperative to enhance the LCEC member experience.

This continued collaboration reflects the ongoing commitment LCEC has to providing reliable, cost-competitive electricity with an exceptional member engagement experience. Additionally, the partnership includes efforts to educate members and employees on the cooperative difference.

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.



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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

# LCEC NEWS

## The relationship between RELIABILITY and RATES

Electric rates correlate to reliable electricity. As a not-for-profit electric distribution cooperative, LCEC rates cover the cost of operations, power supply, and capital investment in the infrastructure. When an electric bill is paid, that money feeds directly back into the LCEC electric system. From maintenance to new substations to innovative technology, LCEC rates allow for electricity that members can rely on. LCEC understands the importance and necessity that electricity plays in every day life. LCEC thanks members for supporting the vision to deliver the power that energizes our community.


## What is LCEC equity?

As a member, you earn equity with every electric bill. Equity is one of the things that sets cooperatives apart from investor-owned or municipal utilities. As a membership electric cooperative, LCEC does not earn profits or utilize revenues to fund non-cooperative related projects.

Every utility must collect revenue to cover expenses and plan for investment in the electric infrastructure. Investor-owned utilities design rates to also maximize profits and pay dividends to stockholders. Municipal utilities

design rates to contribute to the general fund. LCEC rates are balanced to only cover costs, plan for growth, maintain required financial ratios, support communities, and provide reliability.

When revenues exceed the cost of providing safe, reliable power and quality service, net margins are allocated to active members proportionate to the amount they were billed during the year. After time, a portion of this equity is retired and active and inactive members receive their share of the retirement.





FEBRUARY 2024



## Place your vote in the LCEC TRUSTEE ELECTION

As a member, you have the ability to elect fellow members to govern LCEC through the democratic process. Board of Trustee Election ballots will be mailed to LCEC members in March. All LCEC account holders are eligible to vote in the annual election. Voting can be completed over the phone, online, or by mail.

- Seats for election:**
- DISTRICT 1 –**  
MARCO ISLAND, GOODLAND, AND EVERGLADES
  - DISTRICT 2, SEAT 2 –**  
CAPE CORAL
  - DISTRICT 3 –**  
SANIBEL, CAPTIVA, AND PINE ISLAND

Board members serve a three-year term and Trustee seats are staggered to allow for leadership continuity. To find out more about the LCEC Board, visit the About > Board of Trustees tab on lcec.net.



## Manage your usage in SmartHub

**lcec.net**

# TREE WISE

## saves lives

Tree care near power lines is not just dangerous, it can be deadly! Touching or contacting a power line with body parts, tools, or tree trimmings can cause electric shock or even death. During tree care, all tools, body parts, and tree limbs must remain a minimum of 10 feet away from energized lines. Only qualified line clearance arborists may work within 10 feet of energized lines.

**Visit [lcec.net](http://lcec.net) to learn how to be TreeWISE!**

# GREEN Tips to Save the GREEN in your Wallet

Following are tips that are good for the environment and good for your pocket!

- Switch to paperless billing.**  
Paper products make up the largest percentage of solid waste. Enroll through SmartHub!
- Turn it off, and save more!**
- 1 Turn off lights when leaving a room for 15 minutes or more.
  - 2 Turn off ceiling fans when not in the room and save an average of \$85 per year per fan.
  - 3 Turn off the hot water. Save up to 80 percent of the energy required to wash clothes. Only use hot water when necessary.



*LCEC is committed to protecting and preserving the environment.*

## Success at the 2023 Heart walk

LCEC has been a proud supporter of the American Heart Association of Lee County for many years! This year LCEC raised over \$4,480 for the fight against heart disease and stroke.

The American Heart Association is a nonprofit organization that funds cardiovascular medical research and provides education on healthy living and appropriate cardiac care in an effort to reduce disability and deaths caused by cardiovascular disease and stroke for people living in our community.

LCEC employees accompanied by their friends and families were eager to join the walk across the Edison Bridge to raise awareness and support the cause for heart health.

LCEC is a nonprofit corporation. Established in 1940, LCEC delivers power to more than 246,484 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)

## SURVEY winner

If you receive an LCEC customer survey, return it for a chance to win \$100. Last month's winners were:

Sarah Cannedy - Cape Coral  
Joseph Staiger III - Immokalee  
Glenn Beaubien - Cape Coral

# Utilizing the SUN Safely and SUSTAINABLY

**Please Note:** Members are responsible for the minimum customer charge to support the cost of infrastructure needed when not generating their own energy. All taxes, governmental fees, and power cost adjustments apply. In addition, a kW demand charge may apply.

The LCEC Net Metering program allows LCEC customers with a renewable generation system (RGS) to offset all or part of their energy use. **Be cautious of solar companies stating to partner with LCEC.**

When evaluating if Solar Energy is the right fit for your home consider the following:

- Conduct research to evaluate systems and find reputable vendors
- Review the LCEC Net Metering Guidelines
- Complete a net metering application and interconnection agreement
- Apply for local government permitting and inspection
- Once the PV system is installed, provide inspection documentation to LCEC
- LCEC will install a bidirectional meter and provide the OK to operate the net metering system

The net energy generated by a customer will be utilized for LCEC billing calculations. Any energy banked will be carried forward as a credit to the end of the calendar year, and payable at the avoided wholesale power cost.