

# SAVE YOUR GREEN BY GOING PAPERLESS!

Enroll in paperless billing today for a chance to receive a \$100

Members who enroll within the months of February and March have a chance to win a \$100 E-Gift Card! Enrolling in paperless billing is a great way to help reduce your carbon footprint along with cutting down on clutter. With your commitment to go paperless, LCEC is able to save on operational costs and pass on the savings to members! Go to SmartHub or contact us at 239-656-2300 for help enrolling.



Let's get green together!

SmartHub



## COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

LCEC takes an active role in education. From hosting STEM tours at the LCEC campus, reading to students in local elementary schools, providing college scholarships, and serving on Future Makers committees, LCEC believes in fostering the imagination and development of the next generation of leaders. In January, LCEC took part in the Touch-A-Truck event at St. Michaels School where nearly 2,000 children and parents got to sit in, touch, and even honk the horn of large trucks, including an LCEC bucket truck. Being active with students, teachers, and parents alike is just one way LCEC gives back to the community.



LCEC is a nonprofit corporation. Established in 1940, LCEC delivers power to more than 247,532 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)

Follow us! @lccswfl



Subscribe to the LCEC YouTube Channel!  
[youtube.com/LeeCountyElectricCooperativeLCECswfl/featured](https://youtube.com/LeeCountyElectricCooperativeLCECswfl/featured)

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

## The ins and outs of applying for LCEC ENVIRONMENTAL FUNDING

LCEC awards environmental funding in March and September to organizations who apply and fit the general criteria. When applying for funding, it is important to remember the following:

- Applicants must be not-for-profit or serve under the umbrella of an agency with 501(c)(3) status.
- Funding should benefit LCEC members within the LCEC service area.
- The agency's purpose/mission should be consistent with the LCEC core value of taking an active role in the environment to make it a better place to work and live.

Candidates are reminded to be specific when completing the application. To complete an application by March 15 or September 1, visit <https://www.lcec.net/about-lcec/community-and-education/environment>.



## Investing in RELIABILITY

LCEC invests a great deal in ongoing maintenance, inspection, and vegetation management programs on the LCEC distribution and transmission lines and rights-of-ways to ensure reliability of the electric system. Member rates include efforts to strengthen and harden the system through routine inspections, maintenance, and proactive repairs and upgrades. Enhanced use of technology also increases resiliency and keeps rates reasonable. Proactively investing funding and resources helps to mitigate the risk of outages during storms and blue skies.



### Cast your vote in the 2024 LCEC Trustee Election

LCEC members will receive a Trustee Election ballot in the mail this month. Vote for one candidate in each of the three seats slated for the 2024 election. Voting can be conducted online, over the phone, or through the mail.

### ANNUAL MEETING COMING SOON

The 2024 LCEC Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 18, at 8:30 a.m. at the LCEC corporate office in North Fort Myers. Reports will be made by the Board President and the Chief Executive Officer with respect to highlights from 2023 and what is in store for 2024.

## LCEC Lineman Extinguish House Fire

LCEC takes great pride in recognizing the heroic actions of two dedicated lineman, Jason and Jarrett. These courageous individuals acted quickly to respond to, and extinguish, a house fire in a local mobile home community.

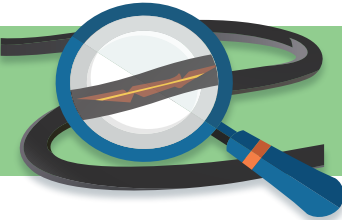


While driving from one job to another, Jason and Jarrett noticed thick black smoke in the air. As they approached, they saw flames reaching up to 10-12 feet high, bystanders outside, and no emergency personnel nearby.

Without hesitation, the two linemen sprang into action. "We didn't think twice. It was something that needed to be done," said Jarrett. They knocked on the door and urged the individual inside the burning trailer to evacuate. The fire department had been dispatched and, in the meantime, the LCEC linemen grabbed the fire extinguishers from their truck to begin putting out the fire. When the extinguishers ran out, they quickly hooked up a neighbor's hose and continued to fight the fire. Thanks to their quick thinking and bravery, no one was injured. The two workers stayed on the scene until the fire department arrived, and then set off to their next job.

# Electric Vehicle Charging Safety


 Stay safe while charging your electric vehicle 




Visually inspect the charging cable before use. **Never** use a damaged charger




Follow the **manufacturer's instructions** on how to charge



Never use an **extension cord** or **multiplug adapter** when charging electric vehicles



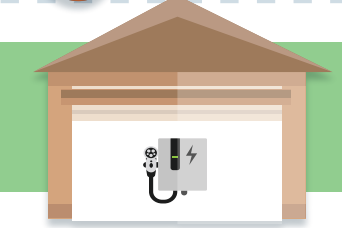
Only use **manufacturer provided** or **approved** charging cables. Never use an adapter to change charging types



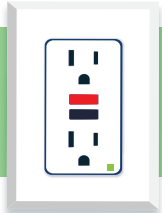
Never **alter** or **modify** your electric vehicle or its battery



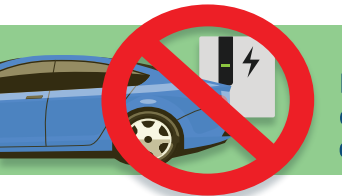
**Properly store chargers** when not in use to prevent damage




**Cover chargers** to manufacturer's specifications to avoid water damage



Ensure you have proper **GFCI protection** to protect against electric shocks



Be aware of your surroundings. **Do not accidentally come in contact** with chargers when driving or parking



Make sure your charging equipment has been **certified** by a **Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory**



All electric vehicle chargers should be installed by a qualified electrician



Placing nails, posters, staples, garden hoses, cameras, or flags on utility poles may seem like a small gesture, but it is dangerous. Attaching these objects can cause injury to utility workers. A small nail can puncture or tear fire retardant clothing, gloves, or safety gear and make linemen vulnerable to falling or possible electrocution.

When performing routine maintenance or responding to an outage, any unauthorized attachments will be removed to keep workers safe.

## SURVEY winner

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

Zen Mierzwa, Sanibel

Christopher Wappler, Cape Coral

Mary Ann Odebralski, Cape Coral

## Maintain tree growth, be TreeWise

It's important to maintain vegetation before it contacts power lines. Tree care near power lines is dangerous and may cause serious injury or even death. Touching or contacting a power line with body parts, tools, or trimmings may cause a powerful electric shock. During tree care, all tools, body, and tree parts must remain a minimum of 10 feet away from energized lines. Only qualified line clearance arborists may work within 10 feet of energized lines.

Always contact LCEC before performing or contracting tree work near the electric lines. When trees are within 10 feet of primary lines, LCEC can schedule safe clearing in advance of tree care.




Please submit a Tree Trimming Request Form for a free site visit to assess and determine the best course of action for vegetation and line conflicts.




**TreeWise**  
TREE CARE SAFETY  
LCEC

## FOOD DISTRIBUTION

LCEC teamed up with Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida, Inc. for a special food and baby product distribution last month. Food was provided for approximately 2,000 families and baby products for 650 families. This marks the first distribution event of the new year LCEC has taken part in to help serve the community. One in eight adults don't know where their next meal is coming from, and one in six kids go to bed hungry due to food insecurity, according to Harry Chapin Food Bank. 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.





**Harry Chapin Food Bank**  
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Visit [harrychapinfoodbank.org](http://harrychapinfoodbank.org) to learn more about opportunities to give back in your area.

