

NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY

The sacrifices made, hours worked, and dedication given do not go unnoticed.

National Lineman Appreciation Day is celebrated April 18 to #thanklineman for their dedicated work! LCEC would like to honor not only our dedicated linemen, but line workers around the world, for the imperative and dangerous work they do.

These hardworking men and women brave severe weather, life-threatening situations, and unique challenges to ensure the lights are on.



Did you know? The power lineman trade began in 1879.

CONSTRUCTION FEE CHANGES

At the January Board meeting, the LCEC Board of Trustees voted to increase construction charges associated with new construction orders as of April 1, 2024. These charges include the System Infrastructure Charge, the Initial Construction Charge, and Contribution in Aid of Construction Charge.

Any applications submitted after March 31st, 2024, include updated fees.

SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE CHARGE: \$750

A service charge per metered service for the establishment of service at a location that will become permanent.

INITIAL CONSTRUCTION CHARGE: \$300

Contribution toward the administrative costs associated with processing the initial temporary service and the subsequent temporary-to-permanent swing-over.

CONTRIBUTION IN AID OF CONSTRUCTION

Underground LCEC-Installed Trench \$3,185

Residential underground service with trench and conduit installed by LCEC.

Underground Customer-Installed Trench \$345

Residential underground service with trench and conduit installed by customer.

Increasing costs of materials, labor, and technology have contributed to the need for increasing charges such as those associated with new construction. LCEC works year-round to keep costs down, despite the ever-increasing expenses related to providing reliable electric service.

Membership Matters What is Equity?



As a member you may hear the term 'Equity' when discussing the benefits of LCEC membership. How does equity work?

Equity is one of the many benefits that set cooperatives apart from investor-owned or municipal utilities. As a member of LCEC, you earn equity for your investment in the electric infrastructure.

Every utility must collect revenue to cover expenses and plan for system hardening and power capacity. Investor-owned utilities design rates to maximize profits and pay dividends to stockholders. LCEC rates are balanced to only cover costs, plan for growth, maintain required financial ratios, support communities, and provide reliability. As an electric distribution cooperative, LCEC does not earn profits. Below is the membership cycle of your equity!

- STEP 1** A home or business establishes electric service within the LCEC territory and becomes a member.
- STEP 2** LCEC tracks energy purchased by the member.
- STEP 3** When revenue exceeds expenses, members are allocated a portion of the margins.
- STEP 4** LCEC tracks the allocation on member accounts.
- STEP 5** Member investment funds system needs such as construction, equipment, trucks, and inventory.
- STEP 6** Every year, the LCEC Board of Trustees evaluates the financial condition of the cooperative to determine if equity can be retired.
- STEP 7** After a certain period of time, a member will receive a portion of their equity!

LCEC ANNUAL MEETING

The LCEC Annual Meeting, open to cooperative members, will take place on April 18, 9:00 a.m. at LCEC headquarters. The 2024 Trustee Election results will be announced along with a discussion from LCEC leaders on 2023 accomplishments and 2024 plans



Power Cost Adjustment to fluctuate monthly

Members may notice the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) credit on their bill this month. In January and February, there was no PCA. The Power Cost Adjustment is adjusted up or down each month to reflect the cost fluctuations of power that LCEC purchases to meet member needs. When power costs increase, the PCA increases. When costs decline the decrease is also passed on to members.

86TH ANNUAL EDISON FESTIVAL OF LIGHT

LCEC participated in the Edison Festival of Light Grand Parade for decades! More than 70 LCEC employees, friends and family volunteered in February to take part in this hugely popular Fort Myers tradition! Celebrating its 86th year, the Parade is a highlight of the month-long celebration that commemorates the incredible scientific and philanthropic contributions of Thomas Alva Edison who spent his winters in Fort Myers.



Follow us! @lcecsfwfl



Subscribe to the LCEC YouTube Channel!

youtube.com/LeeCountyElectricCooperative/LCECswfl/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

LCEC is a nonprofit corporation. Established in 1940, LCEC delivers power to more than 248,550 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

SmartHub

Add your phone number to get text notifications.



lcec.net

How power gets to you!

Powering any electric device involves a complex process orchestrated by electric utilities like LCEC. The LCEC electric grid spans over 8,000 miles, comprising generated energy sources fueled by natural gas, nuclear, and solar. The second component is maintained by LCEC and includes poles, wires, and equipment for seamless delivery. Grid resilience is upheld through smart technologies, ensuring a reliable system despite challenges like weather, cybersecurity threats, and external threats such as supply chain disruptions and labor shortages.

GRID RESILIENCE: LCEC utilizes smart technologies to strengthen, monitor, inspect, and maintain the electric system. Leveraging more than 84 years of experience while embracing new ways ensures the lights stay on forever.

ANTICIPATING AND ADAPTING: A comprehensive strategic plan, emergency planning, and a 10-year engineering plan provides business continuity. Ensuring infrastructure is in place, safe, and reliable is one of the top LCEC priorities.

STRENGTHENING CYBERSECURITY: LCEC works closely with agencies and the Department of Homeland Security to monitor and strengthen defenses. LCEC often provides information to help customers protect themselves against scams and hackers.

SMARTHUB: Putting the power of viewing and paying bills, and managing energy usage into the hands of customers helps to reduce costs for everyone and enhances the LCEC experience. Enrolling in SmartHub opens a new world of tools, information, and options.



Leaving home for summer

As some members prepare to head home for the summer, it is important to consider mold and mildew prevention. Vacant homes need a small amount of air conditioning for humidity control. Mold and mildew growth begin when the relative humidity is consistently 70 percent or higher. To protect health and home, LCEC suggests one of the following practices to guard against mold and mildew when leaving home for the summer:

- For the highest level of security against mildew, install a timer on the A/C system. Set it to cycle for two hours every day.
- Install a humidistat on the A/C, and set it to cycle whenever indoor humidity exceeds 65 percent. This technique uses the least power. Please note that on new high-efficiency systems, a humidistat may be incorporated with the thermostat control system.
- Set the thermostat to 83 degrees Fahrenheit. This is the least efficient method and is recommended only for short or infrequent summer trips.

REGISTER FOR SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER BEFORE AN EMERGENCY HAPPENS

Special Needs Shelters are designed to meet the needs of people who require assistance beyond what is provided at a general shelter during emergencies. When there is no other sheltering option with family or friends, these shelters provide, to the extent possible under emergency conditions, an environment that can sustain health until shelter is no longer needed.



✓ Review qualifications and register early
Lee County – www.LeeEOC.com
Collier County – www.colliergov.net
Charlotte County – www.charlottecountyfl.com
Hendry County – www.hendryfla.net

Smooth Sailing

The water is warm, and Florida life is beautiful. Do not be distracted from safety! Power line contact poses a risk of power interruptions and could also mean serious injuries or fatalities.

To avoid hitting power lines, check nautical maps for overhead line clearances.

- Stay in the main channel.
- Be sure to remain 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. Stay in the boat, and do not touch anything metal until help arrives and the boat is no longer in contact with the line.

LCEC reminds all boaters to avoid coming into contact with power lines.

Meter Tampering is not a victimless crime



LCEC uses automated meter reading technology, business intelligence reporting, and field investigations to detect meter cheaters and prevent the theft of electricity.

Dangers of tampering:

- Can result in injury or death by electrocution
- Can be a fire hazard and back-feed into the lines where crews are working, putting them in danger
- Results in added costs for all members

Consequences:

- In accordance with the Florida Public Service Commission guidelines and LCEC rate tariff, power is disconnected and the meter is removed immediately
- A \$200 fee, equipment replacement charge, security deposit, current bill and restitution must be paid before power is restored

Contact LCEC through lcec.net or 239-656-2300 if you suspect meter tampering. You could be saving lives with just one call or click!

SURVEY winner

If you receive an LCEC customer survey, return it for a chance to win \$100. Last month's winners were:
 David Rose, North Fort Myers
 Juergen Possner, Cape Coral
 Pedro Torres, Cape Coral