

Plan your home landscape wisely



Trees add value to your property and can lower your energy costs.

However, trees that grow into and around power lines can cause power outages and pose safety hazards. This safety issue affects customers as well as utility workers who have to service lines that come in contact with trees.

When you consider landscape plans or planting new trees around your home, know where power lines are on your property. Take the time to choose the right tree and plant it in the right place to help ensure a safe and reliable electric supply.

- A minimum of **25** feet of right of way is maintained around all power lines. Cleco's rights of way allow the company to remove any obstructions, including trees and shrubs, which may interfere with its service.
- When planting a new tree, look up and estimate the distance to any nearby power lines. Consider the height and width of the tree when it reaches maturity and plant it a sufficient distance outside the right of way.
- Avoid planting anything near the green boxes that house underground electrical equipment. These contain dangerous electrical equipment and Cleco employees need access at all times.
- When planting trees, contact Louisiana One Call at **1-800-272-3020** 48 hours in advance of digging. Louisiana One Call will mark all underground utilities.

For more information about planting the right tree in the right place, visit www.cleco.com or pick up a brochure at any Cleco customer service office.



CUSTOMERS PAYING LESS FOR STORMS

The Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC) and Cleco Power have worked together to lower the customer surcharge associated with hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The securitized bonds issued in March 2008 will save customers a total of \$106 million. The new average customer rate is \$2.32 per month versus the previous recovery rate of \$4.98 per month.

Cleco issued \$180 million in bonds with \$50 million funding a reserve for future storms and the remainder recovering expenses related to the 2005 hurricanes. With approval by the LPSC, Cleco is the first utility in the state to use securitized bonds rather than traditional financing for recovering storm costs.

The securitized bonds were issued by a Special Purpose Entity (SPE), Cleco Katrina/Rita Hurricane Recovery Funding LLC, a subsidiary of Cleco Power LLC. The SPE is the owner of the rights to the storm recovery charge while Cleco Power LLC acts as the collection agent for the SPE.

Get ready for storm season

Cleco's Severe Weather Guide is available at Cleco customer service offices, online at cleco.com, or can be mailed to you. Call **1-800-622-6537** to receive a copy by mail.

