

# Vegetation management is critical to electric reliability

Millions of people served by PPL Electric Utilities depend on having reliable power for their homes and businesses. Effective vegetation management along high-voltage transmission lines is a critical part of maintaining that reliability.

PPL Electric Utilities operates thousands of miles of high-voltage transmission lines. Our vegetation management program is designed to promote the safe and reliable operation of the electric grid while making sure that we are sensitive to the concerns of property owners and our obligations to electric customers.



## PPL Electric Utilities' right to do this work

The vegetation management work we do will depend on the specific rights we have for each property. We will be happy to discuss these rights with you in advance of any work.

**To schedule a meeting** with a PPL Electric Utilities representative, email us at [PPLVegetationManagement@pplweb.com](mailto:PPLVegetationManagement@pplweb.com).

For further information, visit [ppl electric.com/vegetation](http://ppl electric.com/vegetation).



## An award-winning program

PPL Electric Utilities is a proud recipient of the **Tree Line USA** award from the **Arbor Day Foundation** and the **National Association of State Foresters**.

The groups seek to promote proper utility arboriculture and public education through annual worker training, quality tree care, tree planting and public education, energy conservation and collaboration with community groups. For information about planting the right tree in the right place, visit [arborday.org](http://arborday.org).

PPL Electric Utilities works with state and local conservation, land management and environmental groups to advance common goals of electric reliability and environmental stewardship.



**PPL Electric Utilities**  
[ppl electric.com/vegetation](http://ppl electric.com/vegetation)

# Transmission Line Vegetation Management

**Keeping your electric service reliable**







# Transmission Line Vegetation Management

Trees on other vegetation must be kept away from power lines. They are the top cause of storm-related power outages.

If trees get too close to power lines, the result can be a serious power outage. There is also the potential of a serious safety risk to you and to our employees.

We have an obligation to keep the grid safe and reliable and oversight is provided at both the state and federal levels.

Events like the Northeast Blackout of 2003 and the Halloween 2011 snowstorm involved prolonged outages caused by trees. Our vegetation management program is aimed at limiting the effects of trees on the grid.

## We take a proactive approach to vegetation management

PPL trims and clears its transmission line rights of way in a much more comprehensive way than in the past. Coupled with investments in new poles, wires, equipment and technology, we've been able to substantially improve reliability for customers.

### Our pledge to you

We maintain our transmission line rights of way according to a schedule that allows us to cover our entire system over a period of several years.

We know removing and trimming trees is not always popular, but it is the right thing to do on behalf of everyone who depends on the grid.

- We pledge to communicate with property owners well in advance of scheduled work.
- We pledge to work in a professional manner, and to work within the limits of the rights we have to perform this work on each property.
- We pledge to treat all property with care.
- We pledge to strike a careful balance between landowner concerns and the need to keep the grid safe and reliable.



### Details of the work we will do

Reducing tree-related power outages is important everywhere, especially along transmission lines which carry high-voltage electricity over long distances.

When it comes to transmission line vegetation management, we view the rights of way in two main sections. The area directly under the wires, plus an additional 10 feet is called the wire zone. The rest of the right of way is called the border zone. What kind of vegetation is allowed in the rights of way depends on the voltage of the line, but in all cases it must be compatible with PPL's job to reduce the threat from trees and other vegetation.

**Hazard trees** — Sometimes, trees near the right of way fall into poor condition because of disease, storms or other factors. In order to prevent these trees from falling onto our lines, we remove them at no cost to the property owner. Those who decline the removal of a hazard tree could be liable for the cost of repairs to the power line due if it is damaged by the hazard tree.

**Benefits to birds** — Managing transmission line rights of way creates openings and edges that provide opportunities for native plants to grow and attract birds. According to the National Audubon Society, there are many birds that favor shrub lands and thrive along edge habitat.

#### Compatible species\* —

##### SMALL TREES

Flowering Dogwood  
Redbud  
Hawthorn  
American Hornbeam  
Shadbush (Juneberry, Serviceberry)  
Eastern Red Cedar  
Northern White Cedar  
Dwarf Willow  
Deciduous Holly (Winterberry)

**All native  
grasses, ferns and  
non-woody plants**

##### LARGE SHRUBS

Alder  
Witch-hazel  
Spicebush  
Common Chokecherry  
Elderberry  
Rhododendron  
Viburnum  
Dogwood  
Smooth (Dwarf) Sumac  
Staghorn Sumac  
Chokeberry

##### SMALL SHRUBS

Mountain Laurel  
American Yew  
Sweetfern  
Honeysuckle  
Huckleberries  
Blueberries  
Viburnum  
Meadowsweet  
Wintergreen  
Trailing Arbutus  
Blackberry  
Raspberry  
Hazlenut  
Scrub Oak

*\*This list is not all inclusive and is meant as a guide. Mature specimens of any species may be removed for operational, safety or reliability reasons.*