

Summary of the Electric Power Sector's Efforts to Conserve Pollinators

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The electric power sector has a long history of wildlife conservation. This commitment to wildlife conservation includes pollinators and the vegetative communities which they inhabit. These conservation commitments are deeply rooted in corporate cultures and sustainability policies, which are separate and apart from any regulatory requirements, designed to achieve this goal.

Electricity is an essential human service that is consumed daily by nearly every American and the electric power sector is committed to generating and delivering affordable, reliable, and increasing clean electricity to the consumers. To provide that service, power companies manage vegetation along transmission and distribution rights-of-way, and within the footprint of fossil, solar, and nuclear generating facilities. Vegetation management programs follow standardized best practices that are designed to minimize risks to energized equipment and the environment.

Collectively, the electric power sector, including renewable energy companies, voluntarily provide funding to numerous pollinator conservation and education programs and organizations, including local, state, and national conservation groups, nature centers, and other similar groups and initiatives.

Some examples of voluntary efforts by power companies to conserve pollinators include:

- Setting aside and managing large wetland, forest and grassland habitat on utility-owned properties for pollinator conservation
- Establishing pollinator friendly plantings within powerline rights-of-way
- Development and use of integrated vegetation management practices on power line rights-of-way to minimize herbicide usage and schedule mowing to reduce impacts to pollinators
- Hosting community education and outreach events to promote pollinator planting



Some examples of voluntary efforts by solar energy companies to conserve pollinators include:

- Establishing pollinator friendly plantings adjacent to solar energy facilities
- Providing mitigation for habitat impacts
- Participation in collaborative efforts with federal and state regulators and conservation organizations to design approaches that further conservation efforts while maintaining renewable energy production goals

The foregoing are just a few examples of the measures the electric power sector takes to avoid and/or minimize impacts to pollinators or create new habitat for the species. Regardless of the regulatory status of high-profile species such as the Monarch butterfly, these efforts will continue, in part because stakeholders such as shareholders, customers, financiers and the public expect it, but mostly because the electric companies and renewable energy developers have a deeply rooted commitment to the conservation of our nation's natural resources and the value they bring to our communities.

