

## Enhancing Customer Reliability

Atlantic City Electric customers will benefit from a \$26-million effort to trim trees and remove vegetation along nearly 1,800 miles of aerial electric lines in 2018. This work, which will continue through the year, will help maintain safe and reliable service for about 135,000 customers.

Tree and vegetation trimming is a critical part of Atlantic City Electric's efforts to keep the lights on for customers, especially as the company prepares for the summer and fall storm season, where heavy rain and gusty winds can bring down trees and tree branches, causing damage to power lines and other electric equipment. Each year, trees cause about 40 percent of customer power outages.

Through the year, customers may notice vegetation management crews across the company's service area. As part of the company's ongoing commitments to the safety of customers and the local community, customers are notified before work begins in their area.

Atlantic City Electric's vegetation management crews are trained in arboricultural techniques as defined in the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A300 Standard. This standard takes into account the type and location of the tree, its relation to overhead equipment, and overall health of the tree.

Atlantic City Electric's Vegetation Management Program is part of the comprehensive preventive maintenance work the company undertakes each year to proactively review its system and address potential problems before they occur.

Planting new trees is also important to Atlantic City Electric. Shade trees planted in strategic locations, avoiding spots where new trees may interfere with power lines, can reduce residential cooling costs by up to 30 percent, while in the winter months trees reduce wind speeds and infiltration of cold air into homes, reducing heating costs. Each year Atlantic City Electric partners with the Arbor Day Foundation to provide free trees to residential customers through the [Energy-Saving Trees program](#).

Atlantic City Electric is committed to providing its customers with a modern, reliable and resilient energy grid. Over the last five years, Atlantic City Electric has spent hundreds of millions of dollars in southern New Jersey to modernize the local electric distribution system to further provide safe and reliable service to customers.

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