

# Why must Duke Energy remove trees?

Reliable electricity is important to our customers



## Vegetation Management For Planned Work

Duke Energy uses an Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) strategy. The IVM strategy is accomplished by using qualified personnel to monitor the condition of the utility rights of way and perform various vegetation management practices to reduce, control or eliminate incompatible growth. This strategy helps to provide safe and reliable service to our customers by limiting or eliminating the possibility of contact by vegetation, which has grown toward or could fall into the overhead power lines. The reason for IVM is to create, promote, and conserve sustainable plant communities that are compatible with the intended use of the site, and manage incompatible plants that may conflict with the intended use of the site to reduce the likelihood of tree and power line conflicts, as well as service interruptions. This approach is recognized as an industry best management practice and is in alignment with ANSI A300 Part 7 standard.

## Transmission rights of way

High-voltage transmission lines provide large amounts of electricity over long distances. The transmission lines in your community are part of the larger, interconnected grid system that powers an entire region, not just the community through which the lines run. Federal rules are more stringent for some transmission lines, depending on the voltage, and may include fines up to \$1 million per day for tree-related outages. We manage our grid to provide reliable operation of transmission facilities while adhering to regulations and easement rights.

## Distribution rights of way

Distribution lines carry electricity throughout a town or community from substations to the homes and businesses that we serve. Duke Energy maintains vegetation along distribution rights of way to provide reliable delivery of electricity.

## Vegetation Management methods

We use an Integrated Vegetation Management approach, which includes pruning, selective herbicide application, mowing and tree removal. This allows us to proactively evaluate power line areas and determine the best method for maintaining reliable service. The objective of an Integrated Vegetation Management program is to maintain the lines – before the trees and brush are close enough to cause outages – in a manner that's consistent with good arboricultural practices.



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## Managing rights of way

Well-managed rights of way help prevent power outages and allow our vehicles and personnel to safely access our electrical equipment for operations, maintenance and storm response. By maintaining vegetation around our equipment, we can get our customers' power restored more efficiently and safely.

## Easements (Rights of Way)

Easements are land rights we have purchased to allow us to safely and reliably construct, operate and maintain our facilities without interference so we can deliver safe, reliable power to our customers. They also allow us the space we need to build new equipment to meet the future energy demands of our customers.

Sometimes public and private entities plant trees in the easements that impede our ability to operate and maintain these critical assets. Trees planted outside of a right of way also can grow into our easement and endanger our equipment. We recommend that you only plant grass in an electric transmission rights of way or easement.

## Why trimming doesn't always work

We're often asked why we remove some trees instead of trimming them. Trimming is not always healthy for the trees.

Duke Energy has thousands of miles of right of way to manage; even with the latest technology, some fast-growing tree species can outpace our ability to keep them in check. When we have to cut down trees, we take care to leave the area in the same condition as we found it.

Before planting, visit our right-of-way website at [duke-energy.com/safety/right-of-way-management.asp](https://duke-energy.com/safety/right-of-way-management.asp). To report trees growing into power lines, visit [duke-energy.com/indiana/outages/tree-trimming.asp](https://duke-energy.com/indiana/outages/tree-trimming.asp) and fill out the online form.

## Questions?

Please call **866.385.3675** to ask for a Duke Energy transmission forester to contact you.

Contact us at **888.827.5116** or send an email to **MWOHioTransmission@duke-energy.com**.