NYSEG
An Avangrid company

# Vegetation Management & Reclamation Program

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

## Where is reclamation work being done?

NYSEG will spend $20.7 million in 2024 on reclamation, with circuits in its Binghamton, Elmira, Ithaca, Hornell, Lancaster, Lockport, Mechanicville, and Oneonta divisions scheduled for trimming. Additional areas will be identified for reclamation through 2029.

## Why is vegetation management important?

More than 51% of electrical outages are commonly caused by trees or branches falling on power lines. For that reason, a robust vegetation management program is necessary for maintaining overall system reliability and ensuring that customers receive safe and reliable service that is resilient and adaptable to impacts on the system.

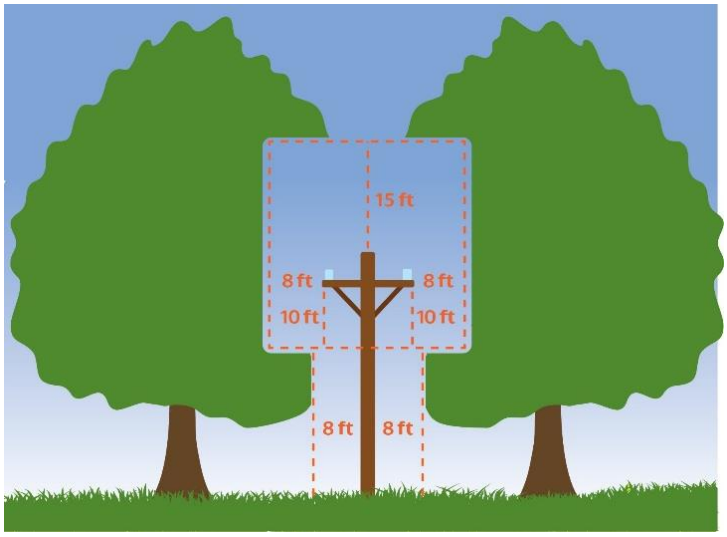
## What is the process?

Trees and tall shrubs growing near electric power lines require periodic maintenance that involves pruning and/or removing vegetation, as tree contact with power lines is one of the leading causes of power interruptions. High winds, snow, and ice can make trees sway, bend, or break, causing the trees to contact electric power lines.

To help maintain safe, reliable electricity service, we will soon be pruning or removing trees and brush near power lines in your area, which involves systematic, mile-by-mile tree cutting and trimming along our facilities. This work will not involve the wires that run from utility pole to your house or place of business.

## What does the project entail?

The tree work will include removal of trees within a minimum of 10 feet side-to-side of lines, and 15 feet overhead. Dead or structurally unsounds limbs that could present a hazard to lines will also be removed, even if they are outside the zone to be cleared. If a danger tree is outside the Company's right-of-way, crews request permission from the customer/property owner before removal.




## What should our customers expect?

In some cases, tree crews may require access to customers' property to perform this work. Notification of the work in each area will be made via customer postcards and most, but not all, customers should also expect an in-person visit from a vendor working on behalf of NYSEG.

## What are a utility easement and a right-of-way?

A utility easement is a designated parcel of land that gives utility companies the right to access private property for the good of the community. For example, a utility company may have the right to trim a tree in your backyard if it's interfering with telephone lines.

Utilities typically run their mainline lines and pipes though a right-of-way because the utilities they provide extend to all the nearby properties. Sometimes utilities are run alongside the street or road in front of the home to prevent the need for a right-of-way in another part of the property. This maximizes the property owner's ability to use more of their land.

## How do you decide which trees to trim or remove?

In yards and other landscaped areas, trees will be pruned using natural pruning methods established by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards and Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA) guidelines. (Please note that during an emergency we may not be able to adhere to the natural pruning method.)

This pruning method involves cutting limbs where the tree would normally shed them and directing future growth away from power lines. While a newly pruned tree will look different, natural pruning protects the health of the tree, minimizes regrowth and requires fewer cuts.

We will not paint pruned trees with tree wound dressings. Such dressings are cosmetic and do not stop decay. In fact, some studies show them to have a detrimental effect.

We only clear trees, branches and vegetation near our electric lines. We do not prune around lines owned by cable or phone companies or remove vegetation that is not interfering with our lines.

## How can I find more information?

For more information on NYSEG's vegetation management program, please visit: Tree Care – NYSEG.

## What do you do with the debris?

During regular pruning in residential and landscaped areas, we chip and remove smaller branches (less than six inches in diameter) but are limited in our removal capabilities of whole trees and larger branches which may result in debris being left onsite.

During emergency situations (storm or weather events) we may not be able to utilize the natural pruning method or clean up debris inline with our typical maintenance standards. Our first priority is to restore our customer's service as safely and as quickly as possible.

## How can the community help?

Consider the location of power lines when planting or doing construction work. To minimize the chance of tree-related power interruptions it's best to avoid planting new trees under power lines.

If you have no other place for a tree and must plant near a power line, there are many low-growing ornamental trees and shrubs that add beauty to your property and cause little or no interference with power lines. See the graphic below for more information.

Never attempt to prune trees near power lines; leave that to professionals.