



## Project Overview

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. The project includes reclamation of space that falls within NYSEG/RGE's right-of-way, much of which hasn't been trimmed in more than 10 years

This work will not involve the wires that run from utility pole to your house or place of business.

## Project Purpose

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 unsound 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

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.

# Vegetation Management & Reclamation Program – NYSEG and RG&E

## Project Need

More than half of all electrical outages are 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.

### OUR TREE CARE PROGRAM HELPS KEEP THE LIGHTS ON IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Contact with trees is a leading cause of power outages, so it only makes sense that pruning or removing trees and vegetation helps to reduce outage frequency. Licensed arborists and qualified tree-care professionals follow a standard to clear 15 feet above primary wires, 10 feet to either side of primary wires, and remove any vegetation below that could grow up into wires.

Years of experience in the utility industry show that a comprehensive trim plan reduces outage frequency while preserving trees' health and natural beauty.

Along with improving reliability, a comprehensive trim plan also helps utilities to operate more efficiently. Less vegetation around lines improves visibility, so personnel can complete line inspections, outage assessment/repair, and other tasks more quickly and safely.

44,000 MILES of NYSEG and RG&E distribution lines + COMPREHENSIVE TRIM PLAN = TREE-RELATED POWER OUTAGES



NYSEG and RG&E will continue to deliver great service and value to our customers. For more information visit [nyseg.com/investplan](http://nyseg.com/investplan) or [rge.com/investplan](http://rge.com/investplan).



**Project Information Lines:** 800-572-1111  
**Refer to:** NYSEG Vegetation Management  
**Email:** [ny.vegetation.management@avangrid.com](mailto:ny.vegetation.management@avangrid.com)  
**Website:** [nyseg.com](http://nyseg.com) > Outages > We're Ready > Tree Care

### Project Scope

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.

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.

This pruning method involves cutting limbs where the tree would normally shed them and directing future growth away from power lines.

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.

### Project Locations

Divisions: Binghamton, Elmira, Ithaca, Hornell, Lancaster, Oneonta, Lockport, Mechanicville

Permitting Required: Local, State

### Estimated Timetable *(subject to change)*

Project Start: Q1 2024

Project Completion: Q4 2029

### Project Benefits

- Reduction in service outages.
- Better access to lines and poles in case of issues.
- Natural pruning protects the health of the tree, minimizes regrowth and requires fewer cuts.
- In rural and wooded areas, tree removal is an effective and economical method for controlling vegetation.
- A larger-scale reclamation project now means a much simpler and less intrusive program going forward.

**Tall trees, such as:**  
 maple, oak, spruce,  
 and pine

### Plant the right tree in the right place

Plant taller trees away from overhead utility lines

