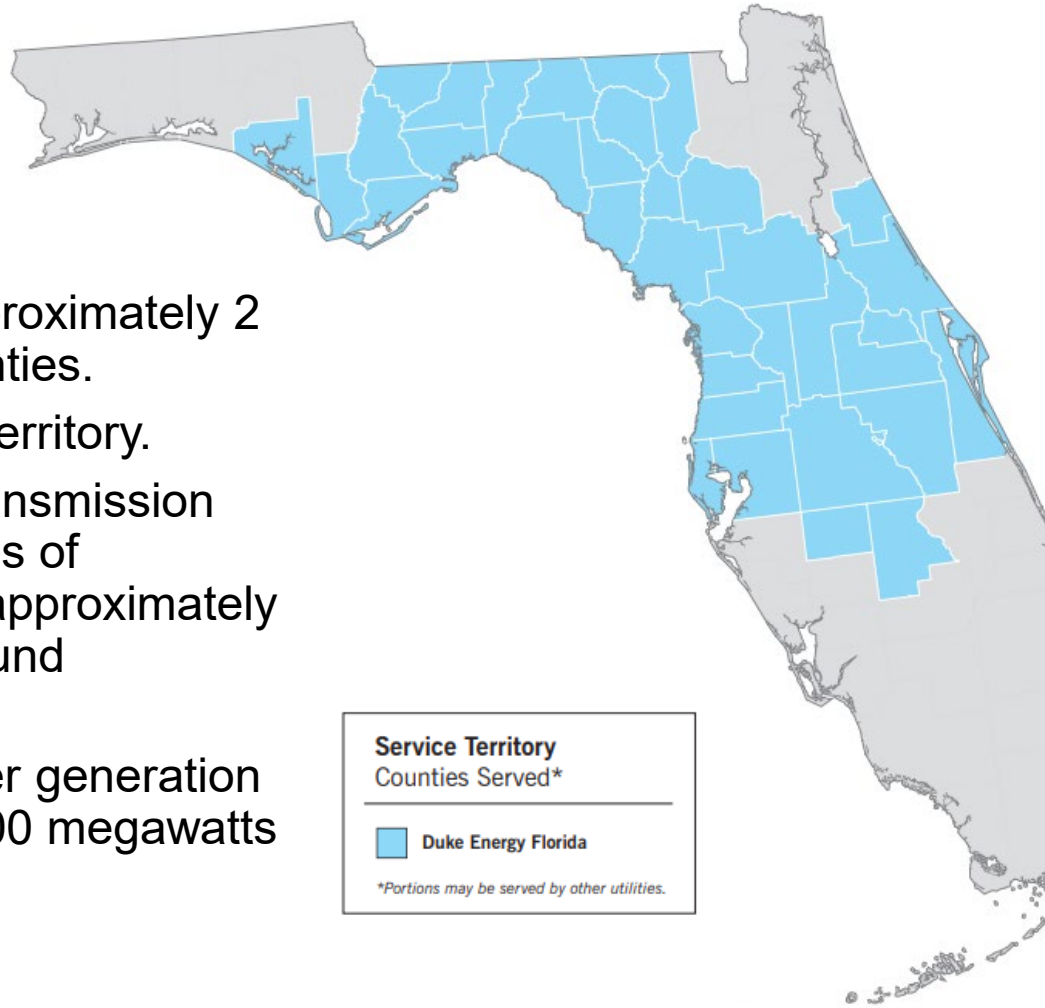
Duke Energy Florida

Duke Energy Florida

- Duke Energy Florida serves approximately 2 million customers within 35 counties.
- 13,000 square miles of service territory.
- Approximately 5,200 miles of transmission lines, approximately 18,000 miles of overhead distribution lines and approximately 14,000 circuit miles of underground distribution cable.
- We maintain more than 30 power generation sites capable of producing 12,000 megawatts of electricity.



Distribution Outage Minutes

Top Causes

Weather

- 125 million minutes

Vegetation

- 70.7 million minutes

**By 2023 outage minutes*

Improving Reliability

- In 2023, the company had its best reliability performance in more than a decade. Between 2018 and 2023, the company reduced the average length of a customer outage by 27%.
- More than 70% of Duke Energy Florida customers now benefit from smart, self-healing technologies (75% in Pinellas County).
- Approximately 50% of Pinellas County primary power lines are underground.
- In 2023, teams completed more than 4,000 miles of maintenance trimming on Duke Energy Florida's distribution lines and 600 miles of planned work on the transmission side.
- Over the past three year, more than 40,000 poles have been hardened through the Storm Protection Plan.
- The company is expanding capacity of the electric grid by building new substations, expanding existing substations and installing new or larger circuits to provide reliable service in the growing state. Duke Energy has completed optimization of eight substations, with another 38 in flight in Florida.

Vegetation Management Highlights

- Federal regulations require that our highest voltage transmission lines remain reliable and free from interference by trees and other vegetation at all times. A vegetation-related outage on these lines could result in the utility being fined up to $1 million per day.
- Trimming methods are based on widely accepted standards developed by the tree care industry and approved by the American National Standards Institute for tree care maintenance and operations.
- Duke Energy has International Society of Arboriculture certified arborists on staff to ensure proper pruning practices are adhered to by all hired Vegetation Management professionals.
- Each tree is different and must be considered individually. However, trees located within the rights of way of high-voltage transmission lines are generally removed instead of pruned.
- Plants, shrubs and trees that are of a species that will not exceed 15 feet in height at maturity will typically not be removed. Each removal can be unique depending on easements or agreements.

Vegetation Management Program

Distribution Vegetation Management

Maintenance prioritized by vegetation-caused outages, time since last prune and customer satisfaction

- Feeder (backbone): 3-year average cycle
- Laterals: 5-year average cycle
- Maintenance, customer request, project driven

Transmission Vegetation Management

Determined by evidence-based threats, conditions and system data

- Prioritized and scheduled using data identified through patrols, inspections and assessments, while considering factors like the date of previous work activities and outage impact
- Condition-based approach is used to target vegetation re-growth and support minimum safe worker distances

Planned Vegetation Management Notifications

Distribution

- Digital communication
- Door-to-door
- Postcards
- Interactive Map

Transmission

- Door hangers
- Door to door
- In-person notification
- Letters to property owner

Right Tree Right Place

- The Arbor Day Foundation has recognized Duke Energy Florida for its tree care practices by naming the company a “Tree Line USA” utility for the 18th year in a row.
- Since 2017, the company has given away more than 13,000 trees to help customers conserve energy and maximize environmental benefits through strategic tree planting.
- Right Tree Right Place education to avoid incompatible trees.
- Please visit Duke Energy’s [Right Tree Right Place website.]

Duke Energy Florida’s tree care practices pr
18th consecutive year of national recognitio

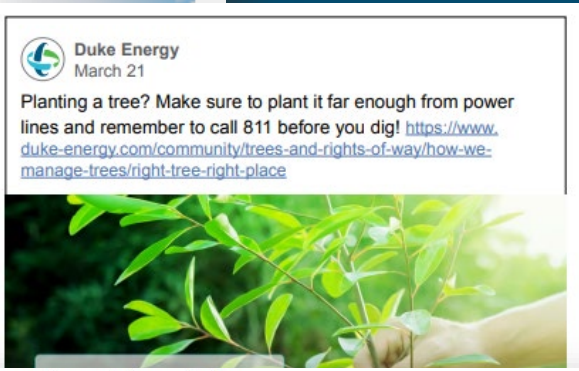
April 19, 2024

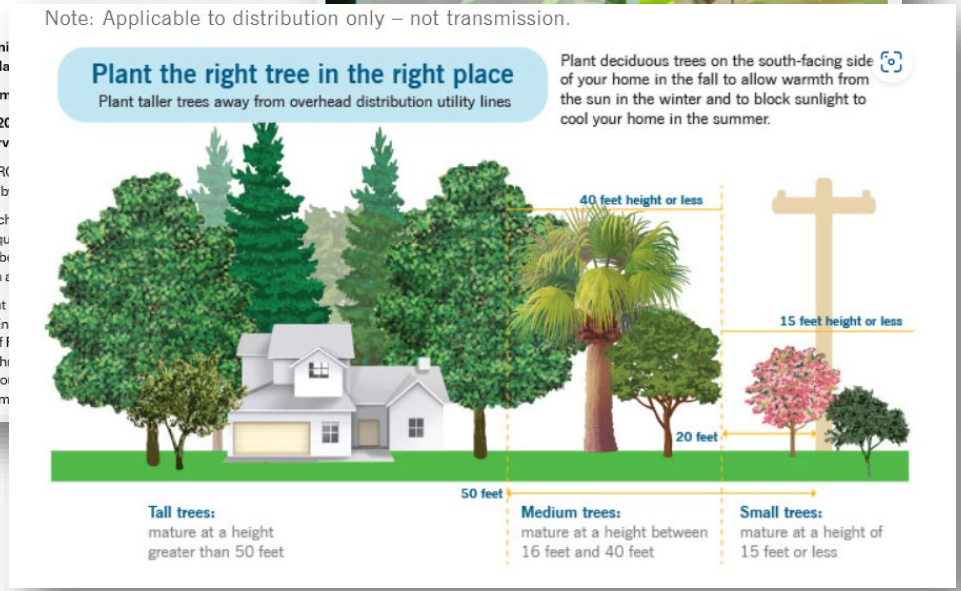
- Recogni accorda
- Program
- Since 20 conserv

ST. PETERSBUR care practices b

Duke Energy ach standards for qu contractors in b participating in a

One such event Foundation’s En tree in honor of F to customers th energy bills thro customers’ hom





Opportunities and Next Steps

Evaluating communications with customers, counties and municipalities.

Distribution Vegetation Management has not paused and continues in Pinellas County.

Transmission Vegetation Management

- Paused in March 2024.
- Essential need to resume for customer reliability.
- Continue to communicate with customers.
- If the property owner does not object to the tree removal, crews will remove the tree. If the property owner objects to the proposed removal, Duke Energy Florida will consider alternative mitigation, such as trimming, with the intent of removal when the vegetation is re-identified as a threat.


DUKE
ENERGY®