

BGE's Tree and Vegetation Management Program.

SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE

BGE's strategy is based on a four- or five-year trimming cycle, routine inspections and reliability performance data. BGE also further enhances tree and vegetation management efforts by implementing requirements mandated by the Maryland Public Service Commission, called the Electricity Service Quality and Reliability Act or RM 43 standards.

PRUNING STANDARDS

BGE uses only licensed, utility-qualified, professional tree-trimming contractors to manage the trees and other vegetation around power lines and equipment. When a neighborhood is scheduled for routine tree and vegetation management work, BGE's contractors place door hangers to let property owners know when to expect crews. If heavy tree pruning or removal is required, the property owner will be directly contacted before work is commenced. If you have questions about the proposed work, call the BGE contractor directly by using the phone number on the door hanger. To learn more information on the program, visit BGE.COM/TreeCare.



Routine maintenance improves reliability.

BGE's commitment to electricity reliability goes beyond maintaining just the poles and lines—it extends to the trees surrounding more than 10,000 miles of overhead power lines. BGE invests more than \$36 million each year into our Tree and Vegetation Management Program, which includes assessing, pruning and removing trees that may cause electric outages, as well as managing vegetation above our underground natural gas transmission pipeline network.

All of this attention to trees has reduced tree-related service outages by nearly one third in the last five years. To learn more about how smart energy gets more reliable every day, visit BGE.COM/Reliability.



Tree-mendous community efforts

- Since 2018, healthy tree branches from BGE’s annual tree trimming program have been a part of the menu for the animals at The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore.
- Once BGE vegetation management crews identify healthy and diet-appropriate trees, the trimmings are bundled and delivered to the Zoo twice a week.
- The program saves the Zoo nearly \$2,000 each week by reducing the need to purchase browse from out-of-state farms.

DIG SAFE

Smart digging means always calling Miss Utility at 811 at least two full business days (but not more than 10 days) before you begin excavations on any project—from home landscaping and gardening to large construction jobs.

With one free call, representatives will visit your proposed dig site and mark the locations of underground electrical wires, gas pipelines and other utilities. Calling 811 before you dig is the first step in preventing damage to underground utilities that can cause serious injuries, disruptions of a neighborhood’s critical services and expensive penalties and repair costs. For additional information, visit **BGE.COM/811**.



Get \$50 for recycling an old working fridge or freezer

In recognition of Earth Month, make some space and some cash this spring when you recycle that old working refrigerator or freezer in your garage or basement. We’ll pick it up and haul it away at no additional cost to you—and give you a \$50 reward! Recycle an old room A/C unit or dehumidifier at the same time and get an extra \$25! It’s that easy. To schedule a pickup, visit **BGESmartEnergy.com/SENRecycling** or call **866.898.1901**.



TREE TRIMMING

BGE encourages customers to manage the heights or spreads of their trees before they get within 10 feet of interfering with electrical lines and equipment. In addition, the Maryland High Voltage Line Act (HVLA) requires anyone working or using tools or equipment within 10 feet of overhead lines to contact BGE first at **800.685.0123**, to evaluate the site and plan how to best make the work area safe. To find a private licensed tree care contractor to prune or remove your trees, visit **BGE.COM/TreeCare**.

PLANTING TREES

BGE recommends the Arbor Day Foundation’s *The Right Tree, the Right Place* guideline which advises that any trees planted within 20 feet on either side of pole-to-pole power lines have a mature height of less than 25 feet. For more information on how to comply with the HVLA by choosing the right tree for the right place on your property, please visit **BGE.COM/TreeCare**.

