

Vegetation Management Conference

November 16-17, 2021 • Online

Overview

Power utilities and their customers are consistently asking far more of transmission and distribution vegetation management programs than in the past. In an effort to promote improved customer service through safety and reliability, liabilities associated with extreme weather and fire risks are now at the front and center of most vegetation management strategic discussions. In taking more aggressive steps to ensure system performance, effective communication to stakeholders remains essential to support the evolution of program strategies. Vegetation managers are directing budgets to removing more trees by eliminating edge-trees and, in some cases, initiating new standards for wider easements to accommodate future practices. Coupled with these efforts is the need to recognize the ecological significance of the ROW on the environment and the impact project work may have, beneficial or otherwise. There remains a need to find balance between potentially aggressive project tactics to prevent loss of power with those for conserving the ecological integrity and use of the land.

Reciprocal reactive goals remain a valid opportunity to manage customer expectations within the realm of vegetation management programs. Targets for addressing customer concerns are, in some cases, determined to be an additional aspect to a preventative program; however, they are a critical aspect of managing a vast array of customer concerns. A great deal of work order software has been developed in accordance with internal, utility-specific processes; however, ensuring the efficient use of funds for managing each individual concern remains complex.

A common vision with long-term objectives remains an important first step in ensuring an alliance between corporate management, vegetation management program teams and their contractors, and the public at large. Agreement on shared outcomes is critical for budgeting, contractor suitability, stability, and customer service. The perspective that all ROWs should be leveraged for environmental integrity in addition to safety and reliability is becoming an integral aspect of planning. This ideology has led to positive outcomes and opportunities for preventative condition-based management, optimized spending, and environmental sustainability, which to a certain extent were not envisioned under historical cyclical regimes.

A great deal of data is critical to support a utility's vision. Investigation will continue into current technologies for data gathering, ascertaining how data can be leveraged, and perhaps most importantly, how it can be transferred between the owner and third parties for work management. Data gathering is the critical first step, and undertaking it efficiently is essential. The second natural step is collecting pertinent information and sharing it digitally, and many paperless applications are being developed to ensure its effective use, often resulting in real-time reporting.

Themes

1. Program Management – Strategic vs. Operational Planning
2. Catastrophic Risk Mitigation – Ensuring System Integrity
3. Support Technology
 - Data Collection and Prioritization
 - Customer Work Orders and Project Workflows
4. Communication – Supporting Customer Engagement
5. Environmental Opportunities – ROW as an Ecological Asset

Who Should Attend?

- Electric Utilities
- Consultants
- Equipment Vendors
- Research Facilities and Laboratory Personnel
- Academics

This event was created in collaboration with our utility members:



To register and for more information, visit <https://www.ceati.com/vm2021-vegetation-management-conference>