

# COMMUNITY FOCUS



## Caring for the Environment is a Critical Component of Our Business

For over a century, Atlantic City Electric has operated and managed miles of power lines and substations throughout the diverse landscape of South Jersey. From the wooded terrain of Tabernacle, to the Farmlands of Upper Pittsgrove, to the shores of Cape May, we strive to protect the many habitats that make this region so unique.

Our company's commitment to environmental stewardship begins with an investment in experts who understand the various habitats within South Jersey. We employ fulltime environmental scientists tasked with not only ensuring state and federal regulatory compliance, but also finding creative ways to help the environment.

### Permitting and Planning

Our environmental and engineering teams work together to design electrical facilities to protect sensitive habitats and minimize environmental impact as much as possible. In an effort to accomplish these goals, we:

- Collaborate with state and federal environmental regulators, community organizations and landowners to protect and preserve habitat
- Balance our responsibility to provide reliable, safe electricity with natural resource protection
- Deploy state-of-the-art, map-based technology to identify and keep track of environmentally-sensitive

areas that may need to be avoided or treated with additional care during a construction or maintenance project

### Species Protection and Habitat Restoration

Sustaining the animal, bird and plant life over the thousands of acres we own and traverse is a top priority. Through careful planning and collaboration with our communities, environmental partners and regulators, we transform previously undesirable areas of land into clean, productive habitats for endangered species.

#### *Northern Bog Turtle*

This project will improve freshwater wetlands and their associated uplands in order to enhance habitat for bog turtle population. The bog turtle is a



Photo by Al Newman

federally threatened, state endangered species. The chosen site includes 13 acres of a tract owned by the State of New Jersey, and consists of 2 wetland habitats that are separated by a field of row crops located in Salem County. This project will also enhance habitat for other native wildlife species, including American Woodcock.

#### *Eastern Tiger Salamander*

The eastern tiger salamander is New Jersey's rarest amphibian. Rising sea levels, development pressures and climate change are threatening to make the creature extinct in the state. But we are helping this species recover by helping to support its natural habitat.

Working with several organizations, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, we are building a series of vernal pools in Cape May County. Vernal pools hold water in the winter and spring, but dry out in the summer. Because fish cannot live in vernal pools, salamander eggs are



**View of one of the three vernal pools with surrounding native shrubs, high bush blueberry, and sweet pepper bush. The pools are approximately 3 feet deep.**

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not in danger of being eaten. These are perfect breeding conditions for the tiger salamander and will aid its recovery over time.

### *Bobwhite Quail*

Starting in 2015, Atlantic City Electric will be partnering with the Tri-County Longbeards, an organization that is part of the National Wild Turkey Foundation. Atlantic City Electric will donate money for warm seasonal grass seed to be planted along existing right-of-way and will provide a suitable and sustainable habitat for quail, other upland birds and associated suite of species. Employee volunteers will also help to build the habitats.

### *Pinelands Protection*

Our environmental and forestry teams work with the Pinelands Commission to protect the unique habitats that are home to many protected species in the Pinelands, which makes up approximately 38% of our service territory. The Pinelands vegetation management plan looks at each span of land separately to determine its specific needs and requirements.

Using this approach, we are able to look at each span of land and determine the requirements and restrictions for each habitat. This helps to protect native Pinelands plants and animals, including threatened and endangered species. Because this is an environmentally-sensitive area, we have a monitor present while any vegetation management is going on.

### *Cape May Wildlife Refuge Maritime Forest Restoration*

We provide funding to a major long-term maritime restoration project located in Cape May Point State Park. Volunteers also meet to pull invasive plants and help regenerate native plants such as asters and black cherry. The park is a critical habitat for local wildlife and migratory birds.

### **Environmental Compliance**

We employ innovative waste prevention, recycling and reuse methods and take a proactive



approach to minimizing waste generation. We also investigate emerging vehicle technologies for compatibility with our fleet requirements.

- In 2013, we recycled more than 100,000 gallons of used petroleum-based products and nearly 44 tons of out-of-service electric equipment materials.
- We are transforming our vehicle fleet by adopting low-carbon technologies such as hybrids, plug-ins and biodiesel fuel.

## Focus On: Avian Protection

Birds routinely use power line poles and towers as perches to establish territorial boundaries, nest, hunt, rest, find shade and feed. Utility poles often provide perching and/or nesting opportunities in areas where few natural perches or nest sites can be found. This increases the chances of electrocution or collisions.

Bird migration and nesting is considered whenever we construct new, or rebuild power lines. We use avian safe standards such as line marking



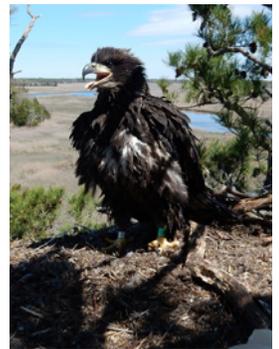
Photo by Al Newman

to increase visibility, tools such as bird diverters and protective tree wire (a thicker insulated wire), and retrofit existing infrastructure when possible to help reduce collision. We also routinely partner with the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey to identify and address risks to birds throughout South Jersey. Additionally, Atlantic City Electric is a member of the Avian Powerline Interaction Committee (APLIC).

## USING SOLAR POWER TO KEEP TABS ON LOCAL BALD EAGLES

In May of this year, Atlantic City Electric environmental scientists were asked to assist with a New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) study that focused on an 8 ½ week old fledgling bald eagle found nesting in Galloway Township.

The bird was banded and fitted with a solar-powered GPS "backpack" that tracks the bird's location and emails results back to the scientists. The backpack was designed to safely expand as the bird grows.



# Caring For Our Shorelines

Many of the towns in our service territory are along the coast. Clean beaches contribute to a cleaner environment and the economic vitality of our entire South Jersey region. During April and October, we participate in Clean Ocean Action's Beach Sweeps. In 2014, more than 100 Atlantic City Electric employees, their family members and friends participated in the Beach Sweeps.



**Senator Jim Whelan (back row, fourth from left) stands with the more than 50 Atlantic City Electric employees, their family members and friends that participated in Clean Ocean Action's Annual Fall Beach Sweeps October 25 in Atlantic City.**

Volunteers not only clean the beaches, but they also record the quantity and types of debris found. Although the debris is not weighed, it is logged into eight main categories: Plastic, foam plastic, paper, glass, metal, wood, rubber and cloth.

Within those main categories, there are approximately 100 sub-categories that allow for a deep level of research to be collected. Resulting data will be published into annual reports to help identify

pollution problems, aid legislators in enacting laws to protect the marine environment and water supply, and to inform local, state and international efforts to combat marine pollution.

## Partnering With ANJEC

Atlantic City Electric partners with the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) by providing funding for environmental workshops that explore topics like habitat restoration and open space. This partnership, as well as the others we have built with local and state environmental organizations, helps to support the various restoration and cleanup projects that are happening in South Jersey. In addition to the workshops, we regularly meet with ANJEC to share information about current and upcoming initiatives.

## Helping Customers Save Energy

Increased energy demand can take a toll on the environment. Atlantic City Electric helps to educate customers about ways to save energy in a number of ways. We attend community meetings, participate in workshops, send information directly to customers in their monthly bills, and provide a great deal of information through our website, My Account online tools and mobile app.

Our Green Power Connection Team helps customers understand how renewable energy sources may be a good fit for them and our Speakers Bureau is a resource that can be called upon to help answer questions about a variety of topics. We are committed to providing our customers with timely and useful information to help save energy and learn new ways to reduce usage. For more information, please visit the following sections of our website:

- Energy Savings 101: [atlanticcityelectric.com/energysavings101](http://atlanticcityelectric.com/energysavings101)
- Protecting Natural Resources: [atlanticcityelectric.com/protectingresources](http://atlanticcityelectric.com/protectingresources)
- Renewable Energy Information: [atlanticcityelectric.com/renewables](http://atlanticcityelectric.com/renewables)
- Green Power Connection Team: [atlanticcityelectric.com/gpct](http://atlanticcityelectric.com/gpct)
- Speakers Bureau: [atlanticcityelectric.com/sb](http://atlanticcityelectric.com/sb)
- Mobile app: [atlanticcityelectric.com/mobileapp](http://atlanticcityelectric.com/mobileapp)
- My Account: [atlanticcityelectric.com/myaccount](http://atlanticcityelectric.com/myaccount)
- Customer Bill Inserts: [atlanticcityelectric.com/lines](http://atlanticcityelectric.com/lines)



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## Shared Commitment to Environmental Stewardship

*Pepco Holdings, Inc. (parent company of Atlantic City Electric) and Exelon Corporation announced on April 30 an agreement to combine the two companies.*

Environmental stewardship and accountability are central values that guide our business operations, regulatory compliance and resource conservation efforts. We know the same is true of Exelon.

Our commitment to the environment includes the following main areas of focus:

- **Clean Energy** – We share a commitment to advancing clean, sustainable energy including solar, wind, hydro and nuclear power.

- **Energy Efficiency** – We are committed to helping customers make smarter energy choices to save money and reduce impacts on the environment.
- **Sustainability** – Through partnerships with environmental groups and efforts to help restore and protect wildlife habitats, we are making a difference.
- **Environmental Compliance** – This is a critical aspect of the utility industry and one both companies take seriously, operating in full compliance with all applicable regulatory and permitting requirements.

Our common goal is to preserve and protect the health of the environment for the people, communities and businesses we serve.

For more information and updates, visit [atlanticcityelectric.com](http://atlanticcityelectric.com), follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/ACElecConnect](https://twitter.com/ACElecConnect) and Like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/AtlanticCityElectric](https://facebook.com/AtlanticCityElectric).

**Do you have concerns or questions related to your community or constituents? If so, our public affairs managers are available to assist.**

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