

20 million trees

were planted in Michigan by
DTE Energy since 1995

Environmental Stewardship

DTE Energy's drive to build a sustainable corporation begins – and ends – with a deep commitment to care for the environment around us.

The tangible results of that commitment include our responsible use of company land, the activities of our employee Green Team environmental volunteers, and our support for community-based environmental efforts and organizations.

Blending our facilities into their surroundings and restoring local vegetation are just two ways we minimize our impact.



DTE Energy employees and Green Team members (left to right) Cynthia Smith, Roberta Urbani and Sara Van Buren plant flowers at a community park in River Rouge, Mich.

We are one of the largest landowners in Michigan. Much of our property remains in a natural state as a transition zone between our operations and the public, and is managed to provide wildlife habitat. A member of the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) since 1995, 12 facilities, including eight power plants, currently are certified as wildlife sites, and we are working to attain WHC certification at many other facilities. Employees at DTE Energy facilities devote time and attention to such activities as wetlands restoration, prairie installation, and planting native flowers, grasses, shrubs and trees to attract and provide habitat for a variety of wildlife. They work as teams to implement the projects and observe and document the results.

In addition to the Wildlife Habitat Council, we work with many environmental partners at our facilities and in the communities we serve. The Fermi 2 Power Plant, one of four facilities we own within the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, has a cooperative agreement with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, allowing the agency to manage habitat on 656 acres of plant property. A group of students from a local high school helped create a Common Tern nesting habitat at our River Rouge Power Plant, and we are working with The Nature Conservancy to create habitat for the endangered Karner Blue butterfly at our Taggart Compressor Station near Grand Rapids, Mich.

Birds find our facilities especially important as stopover sites during migration or as year-round habitat. We support many avian programs including the annual Southeast Michigan Raptor Research Hawk Count, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' annual January Bald Eagle count, and the National Audubon Society's Great Backyard Bird Count. We have participated in the Erie Shores Birding Association's annual Christmas Bird Count at the Monroe Power Plant since the 1970s.

Funding for environmental programs and projects is provided both by the company and the DTE Energy Foundation. Our annual support for the National Cherry Festival in Traverse City, Mich. includes partnering with a Northern Michigan-based green organization and showcasing its work through an environmentally-themed float in the DTE Energy Cherry Royale Parade.

We are significant contributors to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. The purpose of the fund is to help purchase land for recreational use, improve public access to waterways, develop outdoor recreation in urban areas and stimulate tourism. Our partnership with the Natural Resources Trust Fund proves that gas exploration and production can exist in harmony with the environment.

We also support environmental education through teacher programs and grants, and through hands-on participation by employees at water festivals, Earth Day events and by hosting school groups at our facilities as outdoor classrooms. We put our muscles where our dollars are when Green Team members participate in shoreline restoration efforts, clean up beaches, forests and greenway trails, build wildlife observation platforms, and plant trees with our neighbors.

Since 1998, the DTE Energy Foundation Tree Planting Grant Program, administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, has provided more than \$640,000 to 139 Michigan communities. Our company has planted more than 20 million trees in Michigan since 1995, when DTE Energy was one of the first utilities to sign onto the U.S. Department of Energy's Climate Challenge Program. We are also active participants in reforestation projects in Belize, Central America and the lower Mississippi River valley in the United States.

In one of our many initiatives to support environmental and wildlife research, our Monroe Power Plant provided coal cinders for an award-winning lake sturgeon spawning habitat project in the Detroit River. Our concern for the environment also means we endeavor to protect Michigan's native species, while combating exotic or invasive species, such as zebra mussels, purple loosestrife and the emerald ash borer.



As part of our commitment to environmental stewardship DTE Energy apprentice lineman installed a Great Blue Heron rookery at Lyon Oaks Metropark. Pictured (left to right) are Digger Operator Cary Van Elzenga and apprentice linemen Jeffrey O'Kroy, Brian Nulph and Michael Cebula.

DTE Energy believes energy production and minimizing the impact of that activity on the environment need not be mutually exclusive. We believe sustainability means finding ways to meet the energy needs of today and tomorrow without sacrificing the needs of future generations.