

# Richmondville Power & Light

## Tree Line USA

Richmond Power & Light is in the process of applying for Tree Line USA designation in partnership with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC) and the Arbor Day Foundation.

### Tree Line USA Program



Every day in communities all across America, people depend on safe, reliable electric service to power their homes, businesses, and public buildings – all while protecting and enhancing the urban forest.

The Tree Line USA program exists to recognize best practices in public and private utility arboriculture, demonstrating how trees and utilities can co-exist for the benefit of communities and citizens.

The Arbor Day Foundation collaborates with the National Association of State Foresters on this initiative. These state foresters bring expertise in balancing the demands of expanding utility needs in our communities alongside the benefits of providing adequate care for our urban forests.

## **Five Core Standards**

1. **Quality Tree Care** — Industry standards for pruning, planting, removals, trenching, and tunneling near trees are consistently followed..
2. **Annual Worker Training** — Utility employees and contract workers are trained at least annually in best practices.
3. **Tree Planting and Public Education** — Tree planting and public education programs are available to the public and paying customers, demonstrating proper tree planting, placement, and pruning while expanding the tree canopy in the community.
4. **Tree-Based Energy Conservation Program** — A formal tree-based energy conservation program is in place, putting special consideration on the value of trees in conserving energy.
5. **Arbor Day Celebration** — Sponsorship of or participation in annual Arbor Day events at the community level are documented, including collaboration with community groups whenever possible.

## **Tree Line USA Program Benefits for Communities Served by Richmondville Power & Light**



- Healthier and more abundant community forests
- Reduced tree mortality resulting from proper pruning and trenching/ tunneling practices
- Increased reliability of service because properly pruned and maintained trees result in fewer downed lines during storms
- Reduced energy costs to consumers through strategically planted trees for energy conservation and a broader urban forest canopy
- Reduced heat island effect as a result of more shaded pavement

### **Tree Line USA Program Benefits for Richmondville Power & Light**





- Lower line clearance costs resulting from proper pruning.
- Improved rights-of-way management as a result of "right tree, right place" plantings
- Increased public exposure by meeting Tree Line USA requirements, resulting in community tree planting and public education
- Lower peak energy demand through increased canopy and better placement of trees

- Increased reliability of service because properly pruned and maintained trees with healthy root systems will mean less decay and structural weakness, and fewer downed lines during storms
- Collaborative urban forest management opportunities between the utility and other groups that impact community trees
- More trees will help absorb carbon dioxide produced by power plants that burn fossil fuels

