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Avangrid Renewables Protects Sensitive Bat Habitat in New York

The bat is arguably one of the most misunderstood creatures in nature. But conservationists know the truth: bats are critical to the ecosystem and protecting bat habitats has significant conservation value. At the Barton Hill Mine in Essex County, New York, we took action to protect one such suitable environment, an abandoned mine shaft, that is home to several species of bats.



A team of specialists installed a metal gate across a large entrance to the Barton Hill Mine to protect several cave-dwelling species including the federally endangered Indiana bat, the federally and New York state threatened Northern long-eared bat, as well as little brown, big brown, and eastern pipistrelle bats. The gating design is unique as it both prevents bat disturbance from human interference and provides adequate space for bat access.

The project was planned to mitigate potential impacts from two New York projects: the Roaring Brook Wind Farm, which is under construction, and the Deer River Wind Farm, currently under development.

"We are committed to responsibly sited wind energy, and we believe that our facilities can deliver economic and environmental benefits to communities," said Melissa Fisher, Avangrid Renewables' senior environmental permitting manager. "By gating the Barton Hill Mine, we are able to provide a conservation benefit to the state of New York and to important bat populations in the region."

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and New York Department of Environmental Conservation have identified the project as having high conservation value, as the gate is expected to protect thousands of bats per year, and its completion reduces the nuisance qualities and potential safety risk of an open abandoned mine entrance. 🌱

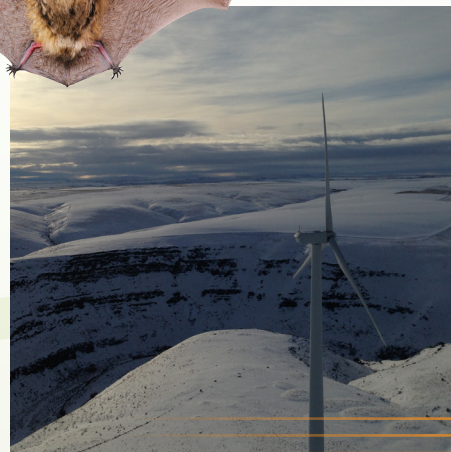


PHOTO SUBMISSIONS

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The Blue Creek Wind Farm Team Builds Their Community with Habitat for Humanity

As the global pandemic and associated economic downturn have strained communities nationwide, Habitat for Humanity continues its critical work to help families improve the places that people call home and provide affordable housing. The Avangrid Foundation established a national partnership with Habitat for Humanity in 2019 and the team at the Blue Creek Wind Farm is proud to continue to volunteer with Habitat in Indiana and Ohio to help support their local communities. Blue Creek is a 304 MW wind farm located in Ohio, spanning Van Wert and Paulding counties, near the Indiana border.

In 2020, the Blue Creek team has participated in seven Habitat for Humanity projects, two during Womens' Build days in Ft. Wayne, three in Paulding County, Ohio, in September, and two during AVANGRID's celebration of International Volunteer Day.

At one construction site in Paulding County, the team rebuilt an accessibility ramp for an elderly woman who relies upon a walker to get around. Her porch was in poor condition, and the front stairs were increasingly challenging for her to climb. Habitat for Humanity recommended porch improvements and a ramp to enable her to stay in her home. The Blue Creek team, along with the owner's grandson, worked to make that a reality over two days in September.

"It's a privilege to be able to give back and support the good work of Habitat for Humanity," said Neil Voje, plant manager at Blue Creek. "I'm proud of our team for taking the time to help people in need in our community." 🏡

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What's it Like to Work at Avangrid Renewables?

A Wind Technician's Perspective



Recently, Landowner News had the opportunity to sit down with Matt Borghese, a wind technician at the Montague Wind Farm in Arlington, Ore. Borghese is a fourth-generation Oregonian and has worked for Avangrid Renewables since 2008. He lives in Arlington. A lightly edited transcript of that interview is below:

What do you do as a wind technician and why is it important? Our job is to keep the turbines generating electricity. Here at Montague, our turbines are still under warranty, so the manufacturer performs most repairs and service. Avangrid Renewables technicians oversee service activities and ensure quality control. We also maintain substations and collector systems. And, we provide support to other teams in the region in our areas of expertise. My focus is on environmental health and safety, so I help technicians at nearby wind farms come up to speed on best practices.

What have you learned from working with the team at Avangrid Renewables? Integrity, Accountability and Teamwork.

What kinds of innovative practices do you apply at Montague?

A recent example of innovation here is a new design for lift bags. Lift bags are used to move equipment from the ground up to the nacelle of a wind turbine. We use a brand of lift bags common in the industry, but they have always had weak points. If a weak point in the bag fails, it can cause an accident that damages the equipment in the bag and can create an unsafe situation. We began gathering data on the weak points across several sites and then worked with the manufacturer to address the majority of everyday failures. These improvements have made the bags stronger and made the weak points easily replaceable so that we can quickly patch damaged bags which saves time and expense.

Why Avangrid Renewables? I feel fortunate to be here. What you see over time is that people want to come from other wind sites to work for Avangrid Renewables, but no one leaves Avangrid Renewables to go to another wind farm. Our company's management says what they mean and means what they say. Most important, the company sticks to its core values and has the best commitment to safety of anywhere I've worked. If there is a problem, we're expected to stop work and we know that we have the full support of management to resolve any issue that might arise. 🌱

We're Hiring!

We're hiring! Avangrid Renewables is seeking to fill multiple wind plant tech openings. The position is responsible for onsite operations, maintenance, repairs, and replacement of equipment at our wind energy sites. Strong preference given to Gamesa-qualified technicians; relocation assistance may be available for qualified candidates. Join our team and grow with us! Go to [avangridrenewables.com/careers](https://www.avangridrenewables.com/careers) for more information. 🌱

Quick Thinking Saves the Day at Twin Buttes II



In September, a routine propane delivery and a failed parking brake led to a scary situation at our Twin Buttes II Wind Farm outside of Lamar, Colorado. Propane, a critical fuel in an area where the average low temperatures dip into the teens during the cold winter months, heats the operations and maintenance building for the 75 MW project.

In September, the propane truck driver making the delivery parked outside of the gates to the propane tank enclosure. The truck was parked on a slight incline leading down to the gate and the truck's emergency brake failed at this critical moment. The truck rolled forward and pinned the driver against the gate.



Fortunately, less than 15 minutes later, wind technician Chris Allen stepped outside of the O&M building and noticed that the driver seemed to be taking longer than usual to gain access to the enclosure. After observing for a few moments, he realized the situation and leapt into action.

With the assistance of fellow tech Ethan Williams, the two were able to move the truck, contact emergency services, and provide first aid to the driver. Fortunately, the driver was quickly taken to a hospital where he received care and has since made a full recovery.

"The vigilance and quick thinking of our team kept an unfortunate accident from becoming a tragedy," said David Karr, manager of Colorado Green and Twin Buttes I&II. "I'm grateful to the work of our techs and the Prowers County EMS and Sheriff's Office for their quick response."

Learning from this experience, all deliveries to Twin Buttes I and II now require a staff escort in order to prevent similar incidents in the future. 🌱



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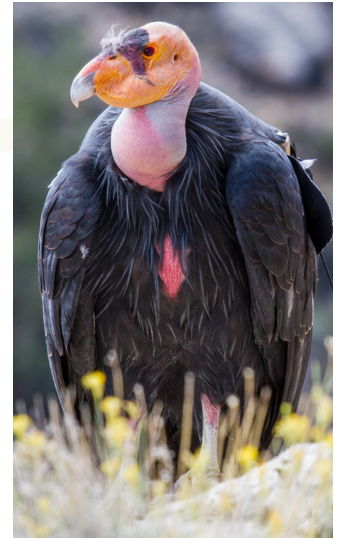
Two Oregon Zoo-reared Condors Released into the Wild

Two California Condors hatched and reared at the Oregon Zoo were released into the open Arizona sky earlier this fall. The California Condor was one of the original species listed on the 1973 Endangered Species Act and is still classified as critically endangered. The Oregon Zoo is one of over 15 regional government and nonprofit organizations that work together to grow the condor population. At the Oregon Zoo's Jonsson Center for Wildlife Conservation, located in rural Clackamas County, condors are reared in captivity until they can be released into the wild.

"It's tremendously gratifying to see them take off," said Dr. Kelly Flaminio, who oversees the Oregon Zoo's condor recovery efforts. "Over the years, condors raised by the Oregon Zoo have been very successful and have paired up with other condors to raise new wild-hatched chicks."

AVANGRID is proud to support the Oregon Zoo's efforts to bring this majestic species back from the brink of extinction. Avangrid Renewables is a corporate member of the Oregon Zoo. And, last year, the Avangrid Foundation awarded the Zoo a \$50,000 grant for improvements at the Jonsson Center which will support the organization's efforts to grow the population of condors in the wild.

We are excited to celebrate this exciting milestone with our partners at the Oregon Zoo. 



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