Protecting biodiversity.

At TC Energy, we are committed to protecting the environment.

We recognize that how we interact with the environment is of vital importance to you. Our Environment Principles of environmental stewardship, protection and performance, guide our decisions every day when building and operating energy infrastructure.

We believe that when we build an asset, we temporarily borrow the land. Once our projects are constructed, we reclaim to equivalent land capability and biological diversity. Over the course of our more than 65-year history, TC Energy has successfully reclaimed thousands of acres of land in many different ecological regions throughout North America.

Biodiversity throughout the life cycle of a project

We’re committed to protecting the environment throughout the complete life cycle of our assets, from business development to project planning and design, through construction and operations to remediation and final decommissioning.

Working with scientists, biologists, engineers and other experts, TC Energy completes environmental impact assessments for our projects. The environmental impact assessment includes field studies which examine existing natural resources and land use along our proposed project footprint, such as vegetation, soils, wildlife, water resources, marine ecosystems, wetlands, and protected areas. In order to conserve and protect the environment through construction and into operations, information gathered for an environmental impact assessment is used to develop project-specific protection plans. When it comes to protecting biodiversity, these plans may include measures such as avoiding habitat of sensitive species, monitoring wildlife during construction, restricting construction during wildlife activity periods, selecting specific construction methods designed to reduce impact on plant habitat, restoring wildlife habitat and more.

We also work closely with the local community and Indigenous groups who know their land well and rely on their knowledge to improve our own planning. We engage with them early and often in the process, identifying and considering their perspectives during the development and construction of our projects and throughout the life cycle of our assets.

TC Energy’s post-construction reclamation and monitoring program ensures that the essential biophysical characteristics of the land are proactively managed. This ensures that equivalent land capability and biological diversity are maintained or reestablished after construction.

Our commitment to the protection of the environment does not end with successful reclamation after construction. TC Energy has an extensive environmental management program to ensure ongoing, day-to-day protection of the environment, including detailed operating procedures, extensive employee training and routine inspections and audits.
Sustainable solutions

Every day, as we build and operate our assets, we work towards finding responsible and sustainable solutions to protect biodiversity across the continent. Here are a few examples:

In Mexico, we use flora and fauna rescue, relocation and reforestation programs to address biodiversity impacts on our projects. Between 2015 and 2019, on our Sur de Texas Tuxpan and El Encino Topolobampo pipeline projects, approximately 63,000 individuals of flora of different species were transplanted, 300 hectares were reforested beyond our right-of-way and 4,500 individual wildlife were relocated.

In the U.S., we recently completed a five-year review of the Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan on our Columbia Gas System in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and various federal agencies. The plan outlines our approach to avoid and minimize impacts to threatened and endangered species near our more than 25,000-km (15,500-mile) long pipeline system, covering 14 states and 43 species.

In Canada, since 2019, the Keystone XL pipeline project team has been conducting snake monitoring research in southern Alberta at multiple sites near the pipeline right-of-way. The multi-year monitoring program is intended to span pre-construction through to post-construction. The research will help determine the effects of our construction activities on snakes, inform future work to improve how we are protecting wildlife and contribute to the body of knowledge on snake species to support the government’s management strategies for snakes in the province.

Performance and recognition

We’re proud to be recognized by respected third-party agencies for our achievements. In 2019, we earned a place on the Dow Jones Sustainability North American Index for the sixth year in a row. We are also recognized as a 2020 CDP Supporter, through our annual disclosure to the CDP on our climate change-related impacts, risks and opportunities.

To read more about environmental stewardship, protection and performance at TC Energy, please visit TCEnergy.com/Sustainability/Environment.

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