

The Vector Urban Forest is an Auckland based initiative from electricity distribution business Vector that aligns with its commitment to creating more sustainable cities and communities.

Under the programme, the company plants two native trees for every one tree removed to protect the region’s power lines. The planting targets existing restoration schemes to maximise both the ecological and social value of the trees, including riparian planting and focusing on areas of the city where existing canopy cover is low.

Managing tree risk is especially important given the extensive network damage that occurs during storms and other high wind events. Vector’s climate modelling projects a significant increase in the number of hours with sustained wind speed in excess of 70km/h – the point where damage to the power network is historically high.



Aucklanders love their trees but unfortunately there is a real lack of awareness of the issues they can cause to network resiliency if they are not maintained or planted with consideration to power line proximity.

The Vector Urban Forest is an example of the action Vector is taking to raise awareness of the issue. Each year the Vector Urban Forest Initiative aims to plant at least 20,000 new seedlings to make up for the approximately 10,000 trees removed from near the electricity network. The trees Vector removes are first identified as a risk by an expert and then removed with permission from the landowner.

The Vector Urban Forest plays a key role in educating the public about the importance of proper tree management and what their responsibilities are as a tree owner. Vector has published a planting guide that shows what trees and plants are safe to plant near power lines. This guide promotes the planting of species native to New Zealand and those that provide habitat for birds and bees.

The Vector Urban Forest also provides a positive initiative for Vector to engage with local communities and work together on creating a future legacy for generations to come. As part of the initiative Vector involves local school groups to provide them an opportunity to connect with nature and create their recreation spaces of the future. More information can be found at: [www.vector.co.nz/articles/planting-smart-to-help-prevent-power-outages](http://www.vector.co.nz/articles/planting-smart-to-help-prevent-power-outages)

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