

MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release



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Pollinator Partnership Honors 2019 Monarch Sustainer of the Year Award Winner ComEd For Monarch Butterfly Initiatives in Illinois

Pollinator Partnership is pleased to announce the winner of the 2019 Monarch Sustainer of the Year Award, Commonwealth Edison (ComEd), the largest electric utility in Illinois. ComEd proudly supports the conservation of monarchs and their vital breeding habitat within their Illinois service territory. They are committed to acting with integrity and accountability as stewards of the environment across the lands they manage. As a right-of-way (ROW) land manager, ComEd not only plays a critical role in providing 1000's of acres of habitat to support monarchs, native pollinators, and other wildlife in northern Illinois, they also serve as an industry leader demonstrating success in sustainability and environmental stewardship through active habitat restoration, integrated habitat management, corporate initiatives, public engagement, internal and external outreach, and national participation.



Overview of pollinator habitat at Superior Street Prairie site, fall 2019

ComEd's corporate policy on Biodiversity and Habitat closely aligns with monarch conservation. ComEd is committed to promoting and enhancing biodiversity through natural resource conservation by protecting species and habitats, while maintaining safe, efficient, and effective operations. Sara Race, ComEd's Senior Environmental Compliance Specialist explained, "The policy promotes a corporate culture that empowers employees to explore innovative ways to improve biodiversity in their communities." Fundamentally, it requires land management that enhances habitat for native pollinators and includes the decision to incorporate multiple actions such as minimizing pesticide use, reducing the spread of

invasive species, and further enhancing habitat with native species additions.

The monarch butterfly is the Illinois state insect, and symbolizes tenacity and creativity. ComEd aspires to these values in their conservation work, and are proud that they are making a difference. According to Laurie Davies Adams, President and CEO, Pollinator Partnership, "ComEd's commitment to pollinator conservation is part of a larger movement to protect the monarch through this generation and for many more."

ComEd is dedicated to monarchs on local, corporate, and national scales through six key initiatives:

1. To restore native and remnant prairie habitat in key locations where monarchs and other pollinators can benefit.

2. Commitment to integrated habitat management and spreading at least 1,000,000 milkweed seeds on their transmission ROW.
3. To integrate conservation into their corporate policies and work closely with their sister utilities to foster pollinator initiatives.
4. To celebrate Pollinator Week and to engage ComEd staff.
5. To actively create, fund, and support community pollinator engagement and critical non-profit groups in their community.
6. To serve and act as key participants and funders for national groups dedicated to monarch butterfly and pollinator conservation.

The Monarch Sustainer of the Year Award recognizes a US business that has shown exceptional leadership and action in providing habitat and awareness for monarchs along their migratory corridors. To submit an application for this award please provide a narrative and supporting documents (photographs, site, plans, outreach plans, etc.) that highlight the unique and inspiring ways in which your business is supporting monarchs and meeting the award criteria. The application package should include a completed cover sheet, a narrative highlighting how your monarch conservation program meets the stated technical and organizational criteria, and any supplementary materials that you would like to share.

Applications for the 2020 Monarch Sustainer of the Year Award are **due December 1st, 2020** to info@pollinator.org. Visit <https://www.pollinator.org/monarch/monarch-sustainer-award> for more information.

ABOUT POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP (P2)

Established in 1997, Pollinator Partnership is the largest 501(c) 3 non-profit organization dedicated exclusively to the health, protection, and conservation of all pollinating animals. Pollinator Partnership's actions for pollinators include education, conservation, restoration, policy, and research. P2's financial support comes through grants, gifts, memberships and donations from any interested party. Its policies are science-based, set by its board of directors, and never influenced by any donor. To make a donation or for information on events during Pollinator Week, visit www.pollinator.org.

ABOUT COMMONWEALTH EDISON (ComEd)

ComEd is a unit of Chicago-based Exelon Corporation (NASDAQ: EXC), a Fortune 100 energy company with approximately 10 million electricity and natural gas customers – the largest number of customers in the U.S. ComEd powers the lives of more than 4 million customers across northern Illinois, or 70 percent of the state's population. For more information visit ComEd.com and connect with the company on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).