



2026 SGA Awards Finalists: Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)

Entry: Molasses Creek Restoration Project

Company: Williams

What challenge was this project or initiative created to solve?

Streambed erosion and scour exposed a natural gas pipeline in a very incised canyon in Renton, Washington, a suburb of Seattle. The stream, Molasses Creek, has been degraded over time by residential and industrial development, water quality impacts and channelization which all impacted the stream and exacerbated erosion and bank sloughing. Molasses Creek had historical records of anadromous fish including salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout, including federally listed species, and was listed as a 303(d) impaired waterbody based on low macroinvertebrate scores. Williams needed to provide cover for the pipeline in a very challenging construction environment (deep incised stream with limited access and workspace) and a challenging regulatory environment (King County, WA) with numerous stakeholders (County, State, and Tribal concerns plus public sentiment).

What approach or solution did your team implement?

Instead of just armoring the pipeline crossing, Williams decided to do a more holistic restoration project to address the underlying issues with the Creek. They adopted a reach wide approach and incorporated numerous restoration actions including installing a French drain, stabilizing the banks and upstream hillsides, increasing channel roughness and adding nourishing piles for the stream and incorporating lots of large woody debris as well as slash to stabilize the banks and mimic natural habitat movement within the stream to provide habitat for invertebrates and multiple life stages of anadromous fish. Williams also worked with stakeholders, especially the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and King County, to incorporate beneficial design elements and monitor the project impacts on fish and benthic macroinvertebrates both before, during, and after construction.

What was the result or measurable outcome?

The project was successful at restoring cover and protecting the natural gas pipeline as well as improving habitat within Molasses Creek. Following project completion, the stream banks stabilized and benthic macroinvertebrate scores improved. For the first time in over 20 years of monitoring done by King County, the benthic macroinvertebrate score exceeded the threshold which classified Molasses Creek as an impaired waterbody. During the fish passage monitoring

requested by the Muckleshoot Tribe, Williams identified a previously undocumented barrier to fish passage downstream near the confluence with the Cedar River. Although this barrier was unrelated to the project, it was completely blocking upstream fish passage which made Molasses Creek inaccessible to migrating fish and had not been identified in the state or county's fish passage monitoring. Williams notified the Muckleshoot Tribe who notified King County and the barrier is scheduled to be removed in 2026 which will restore access to Molasses Creek for salmon and steelhead. The project also highlighted Williams' environmental commitment to the stakeholders and helped foster collaboration that has been helpful for reducing permitting and construction timelines and associated costs for other projects in the area.

How does this work reflect SGA's mission to Share, Grow, and Advance the natural gas industry?

There is often opposition to or distrust of the oil and gas industry in regions like Seattle but this project showed that critical infrastructure and habitat restoration are not mutually exclusive. The project was successful at protecting the critical natural gas pipeline but also helped restore degraded habitat, improve macroinvertebrate scores, and restored access to previously blocked habitat for salmon, steelhead and other fish. By developing good relationships with stakeholders and the public, it is possible to design and permit a project faster and with less back and forth which reduces timelines, saves money and can lead to faster project completion and improved environmental conditions which is a win-win for the industry and the environment. This project highlighted that Williams is committed to being a leader in the natural gas industry while also being a steward of the environment in the areas in which they operate.



Contributors: Halli Baumann, Tammy Moore, Dana West, Matt Frackelton, Meghan McGill

Entry: Spring Gardens Transformation: From Legacy Industrial Site to Environmental Stewardship Leader

Company: Baltimore Gas & Electric Company

What challenge was this project or initiative created to solve?

The Spring Gardens (SPG) complex has been in continuous industrial operation since 1855 and reflects the legacy environmental challenges of early manufactured gas and utility operations in Baltimore City. Located along the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River in an overburdened urban community, the site required long-term remediation, responsible management of legacy impacts, and proactive stewardship while remaining operationally critical to the region. Today, SPG serves as BGE's gas division headquarters, including gas control and three large LNG tanks.

The challenge was to move beyond regulatory compliance and transform a historically impacted site into a leading example of environmental responsibility, resilience, and sustainability.

What approach or solution did your team implement?

Guided by BGE's Environmental Stewardship Program and BGE's ISO 14001 certified Environmental Management System, BGE implemented a comprehensive environmental stewardship approach that integrates remediation, resilience, biodiversity, renewable energy, and waste reduction directly into an active utility campus. During this process, SPG became a "living laboratory" for innovative climate solutions like hydrogen blending, direct-air carbon capture, and more.

Key actions included:

Habitat Restoration:

- Baltimore City's longest forested shoreline (1,700+ feet) is now on the property. Historically there was no vegetation along the shoreline.
- A retired substation was removed and the space was converted into a 10,000+ square foot pollinator garden, including trees, shrubs, and perennial flowering plants.
- A native pollinator garden was created along the outside of the service building onsite, which houses the offices of gas control and the environmental management team.
- This spring, a 30,000 square foot pollinator meadow, named "Monarch Meadow," was established around the solar panel field on campus, with over a dozen native grasses and flowering plants including three species of milkweed, the host plant to monarch butterflies.
- Four bat and bird boxes are positioned within the gardens and wetlands of the property.
- Wildlife cameras are posted at the opening of two animal dens, keeping track of the groundhogs, foxes, deer, and racoons on site.

- An osprey nesting platform is installed along the shoreline, becoming the breeding location for a local osprey pair.
- Trash interceptor devices are positioned at the two stormwater discharge locations on campus, collecting over 8,000 lbs of trash originating from surrounding communities in Baltimore City since their installation.

Recycling:

- BGE recycles over 95% of its waste, in large part due to the use of a soil trommel that separates soil waste from construction sites into different size particles to be used appropriately at future construction sites.

Alternative Energy:

- BGE installed a solar panel field and a solar panel roof for one of its parking lots, integrating both into a micro grid with battery storage capacity to be used to power the growing electric vehicle fleet and largest office building on campus.
- In addition, the battery storage provides for increased resiliency capability at the site.

Flood Resilience:

- Partnered with the Maryland Port Administration to pilot beneficial reuse of dredged materials utilizing geo-tube berms to protect infrastructure while creating shoreline and upland habitat using a variety of Maryland native plants.

The site showcases that legacy gas facilities can lead in environmental stewardship while remaining a critical and resilient component of gas infrastructure.

What was the result or measurable outcome?

The Spring Gardens transformation delivered measurable results in environmental stewardship including wildlife habitat creation, recycling, greenhouse gas emission reductions, and more. The 72-acre site achieved Audubon Society, National Wildlife Federation, and Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) habitat certifications, including WHC's highest level, the Gold Certification. SPG is home to the longest forested shoreline in Baltimore City, measuring over 1,700 feet. On-site renewable generation (640kW generation and 500 kW resiliency battery) avoids approximately 622 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually, while waste management systems recycle 250 to 300 tons of soils per week from excavations saving over \$1.5M annually. Trash interception systems have prevented over 8,000 pounds of Baltimore City debris from entering the Patapsco River, improving the quality of life for surrounding communities. Over 40,000 square feet of pollinator habitat has been installed on campus.

Collectively, these outcomes demonstrate thoughtful stewardship of a historic site with tangible benefits for the surrounding community and environment.

How does this work reflect SGA's mission to Share, Grow, and Advance the natural gas industry?

Spring Gardens' environmental stewardship efforts demonstrate how natural gas utilities can responsibly manage legacy sites while advancing sustainability, biodiversity, climate resilience, and community trust. BGE has shared lessons from SPG on habitat restoration, beneficial reuse of dredged materials, renewable energy integration at gas facilities, and long-term stewardship in urban environments. The site advances industry knowledge by showing that environmental leadership strengthens and does not compete with safe and reliable gas operations. This work supports SGA's mission by providing a scalable model that grows environmental credibility and advances the natural gas industry's role in a sustainable energy future.



Contributors: Dominic Imburgia, Kevin Costello

Entry: Renewable Natural Gas Interconnection - Byram, Mississippi

Company: Delta Utilities

What challenge was this project or initiative created to solve?

Delta Utilities identified an opportunity to integrate Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) into its distribution system for the first time, supporting lower-carbon energy solutions while maintaining the safety, reliability, and integrity of its natural gas system. The primary challenge was developing the technical, operational, and governance framework required to accept RNG from an anaerobic digester without compromising natural gas quality standards, system operations, or existing customer service. As a first-of-its-kind project for Delta Utilities, this initiative required new processes, controls, and commercial structures to responsibly enable RNG injection.

What approach or solution did your team implement?

Delta Utilities implemented a disciplined, governance-focused approach to RNG interconnection in close collaboration with GreenGas USA. The team conducted a formal feasibility study, engineered a dedicated receipt meter with continuous gas quality monitoring, and established defined RNG quality standards with clear testing, rejection, and shut-in protocols. Delta Utilities developed contractual and commercial mechanisms to ensure all project costs were funded up-front through a Contribution in Aid of Construction, protecting existing customers from financial risk. Cross-functional coordination among engineering, gas supply, operations, and safety teams ensured the interconnection was designed to operate reliably within Delta Utilities' distribution system.

What was the result or measurable outcome?

The project enabled Delta Utilities' first Renewable Natural Gas facility to interconnect with its distribution system, allowing up to 200 MMBtu per day of RNG to be injected from a continuously operating anaerobic digester. The facility uses waste from an existing animal rendering operation, displacing conventional natural gas with a lower-carbon alternative while serving a high-load industrial customer. The interconnection includes real-time gas quality monitoring, formal acceptance standards, and operational safeguards that maintain system reliability. The project also established a repeatable framework for future RNG interconnections on Delta Utilities' system.

How does this work reflect SGA's mission to Share, Grow, and Advance the natural gas industry?

This project advances the natural gas industry by demonstrating how a distribution utility can safely and responsibly integrate Renewable Natural Gas into an existing system. Delta Utilities'

first RNG interconnection establishes practical engineering, operational, and governance best practices to be shared across SGA member utilities — supporting industry growth and innovation while advancing natural gas infrastructure's role in a lower-carbon energy future.



Contributors: Kenny Malter, Bryant Williams, Jared Bailey, John "Bo" Murphy, Beau Tichener