



Frequently Asked Questions

Have a question? Please review commonly asked questions about volunteering.

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Why should employees lead or participate in volunteer projects?

When a group of individuals set a common goal and give a little time and energy, great things can be accomplished! Charitable organizations serving those less fortunate rely not only on monetary donations, but also depend on caring individuals who will give their time, knowledge and expertise to help the organization succeed in helping others.

Spectra Energy is committed to making the communities it serves a better place through our United Way campaign, by encouraging and supporting employee and retiree volunteerism, and by providing volunteer grant money and a matching gifts program.

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How do I find a volunteer project in my community to lead?

Contact your local volunteer center, United Way, schools, senior centers and other charitable organizations and ask about opportunities they already have scheduled, or work with them to identify a project you would like to lead. Your passions will lead you to the right organization! VolunteerMatch.com is an on-line resource that lists volunteer opportunities by zip code of many U.S. nonprofit organizations, and Volunteer.CA will provide information on Canadian opportunities.

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How do I find a planned volunteer project so I can join in with other Spectra Energy volunteers?

Spectra Energy has an on-going list of approved volunteer projects. Please visit the Volunteer Projects Home Page and select "View a Current List of Volunteer Projects".

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What guidelines should be used to choose an organization?

U.S. charitable organizations should have a 501(c)(3) status as certified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and Canadian charitable organizations should be registered with the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA). Agencies of the U.S. federal, state and local governments may be considered if they are doing work consistent with 501(c)(3) standards. Accredited K-12 schools, community colleges and colleges/universities are eligible organizations. The nonprofit organizations should not represent a conflict of interest to the company.

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What type of volunteer projects have Spectra Energy employees led and participated in?

Project activities generally fall into these categories:

Community Assistance

- Food Drives
- Blood Drives
- Clothing Drives
- Repairing Houses for Elderly
- Landscaping
- Painting projects
- Serving food at homeless shelters
- Working at food banks
- Sorting donations at local organizations

Education

- Book drives for designated schools
- Creating a libraries
- Assisting with computers and Internet links at schools
- School supply drives
- Building playgrounds
- Painting projects at local schools
- Child development centers (clean toys, build shelves, paint, etc.)
- Safety programs
- Reading for summer reading classes

Elderly Assistance

- Painting, making repairs and providing entertainment at senior centers

Environmental Assistance

- Cleaning trash from trails, parks, creeks, beaches, highways etc.
- Planting trees

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Will Spectra Energy have an effort similar to Duke Energy's Global Service Event (GSE)?

Yes, the effort will be called "Helping Hands in Action". Details of this effort are being discussed and will be shared as soon as plans are solidified.

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Will I be given time off from work to volunteer?

Business needs take precedence, so you must obtain approval from your supervisor/manager to participate in a project scheduled during your normal work hours. If you are approved by your management to volunteer for a project that is scheduled during your normal work hours, you will be paid straight time for the hours you would have worked, but no overtime. Employees are encouraged to volunteer on weekends or after hours so as not to disrupt business operations, but employees are not paid for hours they volunteer outside their normal work schedule.

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Can family members participate in Spectra Energy volunteer activities?

Spectra Energy recognizes the value of family volunteering. Depending on the type of project, it may or may not be possible for family members to participate. Where appropriate opportunities exist, family members will be encouraged to participate in the volunteer effort. Always check with the volunteer project lead.

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Is financial assistance available to help purchase materials needed for volunteer activities?

Yes, through the Community Improvement Grant. The guidelines and application are available through the main page of the Spectra Energy Volunteer site. Be sure to read the guidelines to ensure that the project qualifies. If you have questions, please contact Regan Kasman at 713.627.5036 in the U.S., Cindy Willers at 604.691.5920 in Canada (except for Ontario) and Sarah Robinson at 519-436-4600 ext. 2384, saerobinson@uniongas.com in Ontario.

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How do I promote a volunteer project to the media?

Always ask the nonprofit if they are contacting the media about your volunteer project. If so, contact Caleen Allen in the U.S. at 713.627.5400, Rosemary Silva in Western Canada at 604.488.8147 or Andrea Stass at Union Gas at 519.436.4600 extension 5490.

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More questions?

Please contact Regan Kasman, Houston Community Relations, at 713.627.5036, rskasman@spectraenergy.com. In Canada (except for Ontario), contact Cindy Willers at 604.691.5920, cwillers@spectraenergy.com. For Ontario, contact Sarah Robinson at 519-436-4600 ext. 2384, saerobinson@uniongas.com.

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