



PUBCAP Meeting

● ● ● Wednesday, November 20, 2024



Call Open Meeting To Order



Approval of Minutes



Old Business



New Business



Lead and Copper Rule Revision (LCRR) Service Line Inventory Project Overview

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Lead Environmental Compliance Specialist

Environmental Compliance

Agenda

1. Background
2. Project Purpose
3. Inventory Activities
4. Initial Inventory Submission
5. Next Steps for BPUB – Website & Interactive Map
6. LCR Phase II
7. Questions

Background

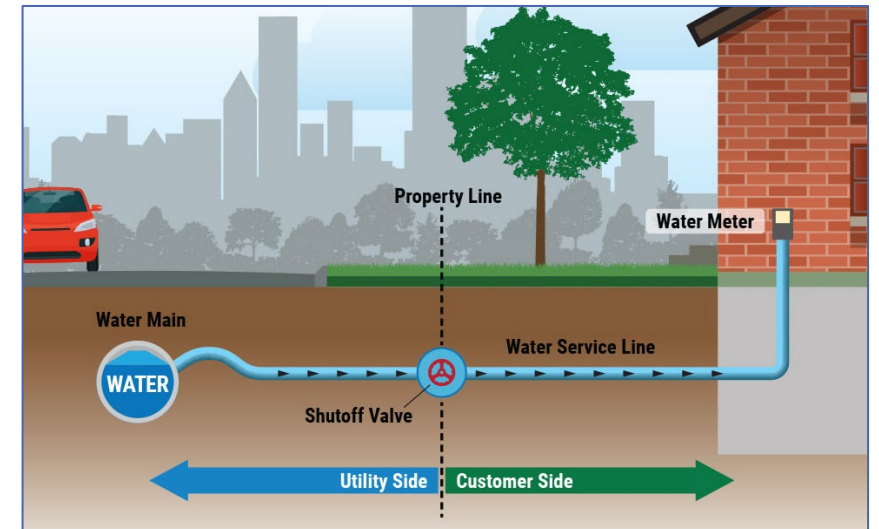
- Originally published in 1991, the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) protects the public health by minimizing lead and copper levels in our drinking water.
- On December 16, 2021, the EPA announced the next steps to reinforce the regulatory framework on lead under the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions – LCRR

Project Purpose

Achieve compliance with EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR)

Develop an inventory of all water service lines in the distribution system

- Identify the service line material on both the system-owned and customer-owned portion of each line
- Categorize as Non-Lead, Lead, Galvanized Requiring Replacement (GRR), or Lead Status Unknown



Inventory Activities

For the initial inventory, systems are required to review all existing historical records and identify service line materials during normal operating activities

Historical Records Reviewed:

- 12,969 Customer Service Inspections
- Waterline Replacement records
- Standard service line details from 1973, 1982, and 1986
- GIS data on water mains and public service lines
- Parcel data
- Online build year resources (Zillow, Redfin, etc.)
- Historical aerial images



Initial Inventory Submission

Fully compliant with LCRR law

Results after completing the records review

- Non-Lead: 40,967 (69%)
- Lead Status Unknown: 18,134 (31%)

Public

Non-lead = 95.5%

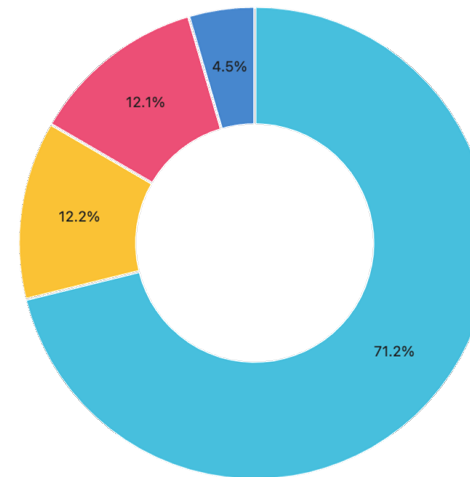
Unknown = 4.5%

Private

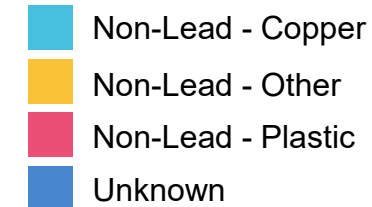
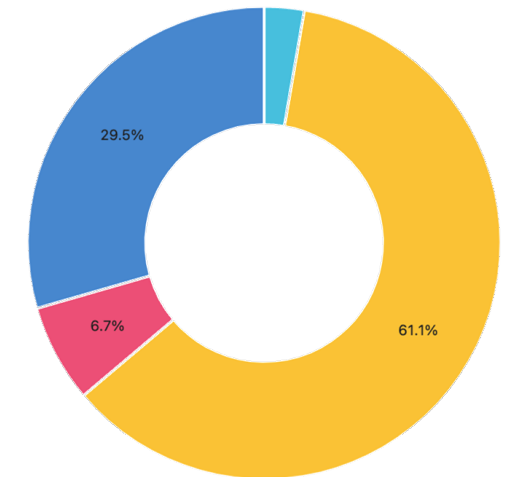
Non-lead = 70.5%

Unknown = 29.5%

Public SLs



Private SLs



Submitted to and **accepted** by TCEQ

Next Steps for BPUB

Public Notification and Education

Publish the initial inventory online

30-day certification to customers served by unknown service lines

Annual notices to customers served by unknown service lines


- LCRI pauses the annual notifications until ~2027, incentivizing BPUB to identify unknowns before 2027

BPUB LCR Website



<https://bpubstg.wpengine.com/utility-services/water-wastewater/lead-and-copper-rule-lcr-information/>

BPUB LCR - Interactive Map



Water Service Line Inventory

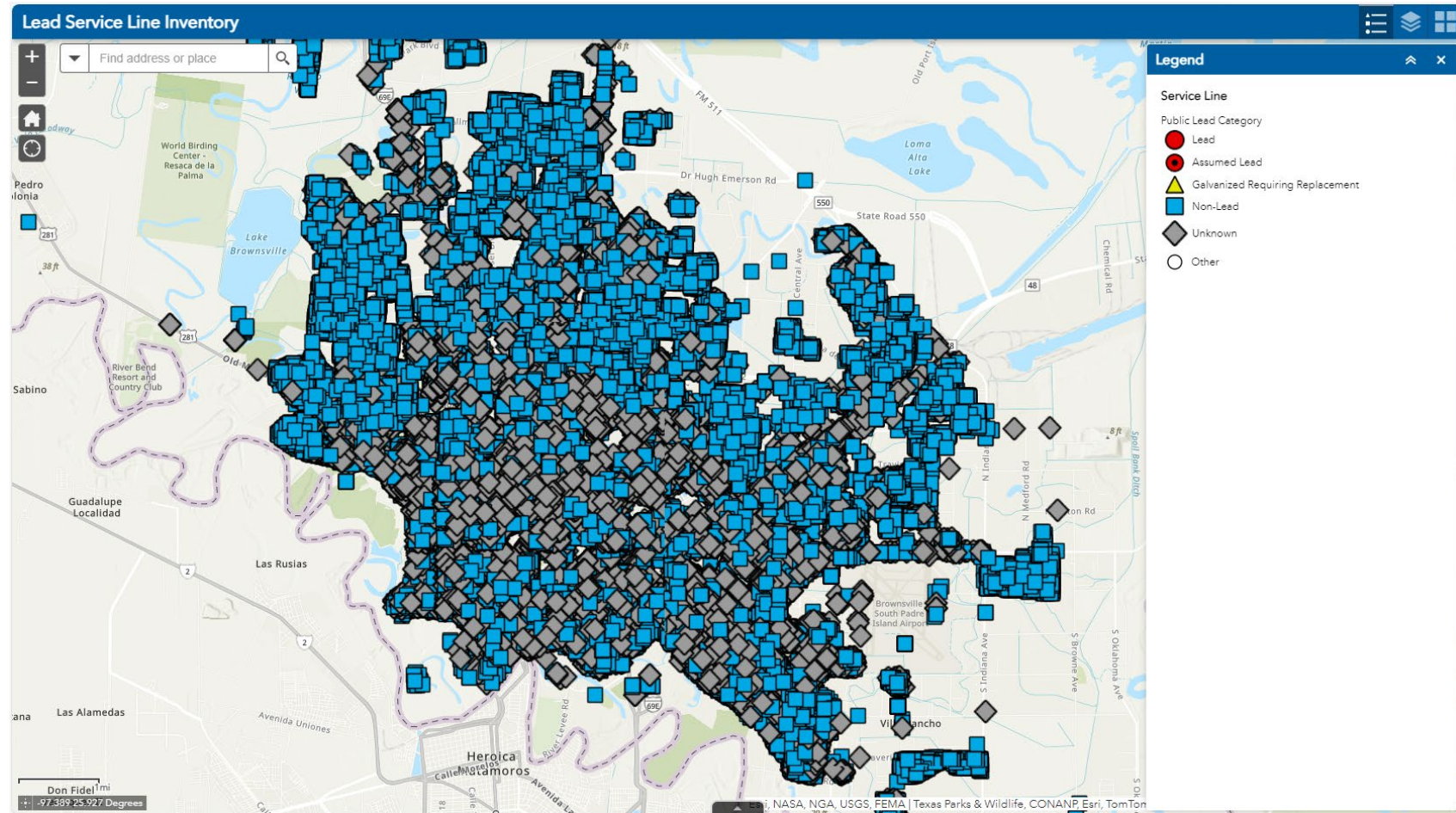
If our records identify your home as having an **UNKNOWN** service line material, it means we couldn't determine the type of pipe that supplies water to your home, and it's possible it could contain lead.

Use our interactive map to look up the service line material for your home or business.

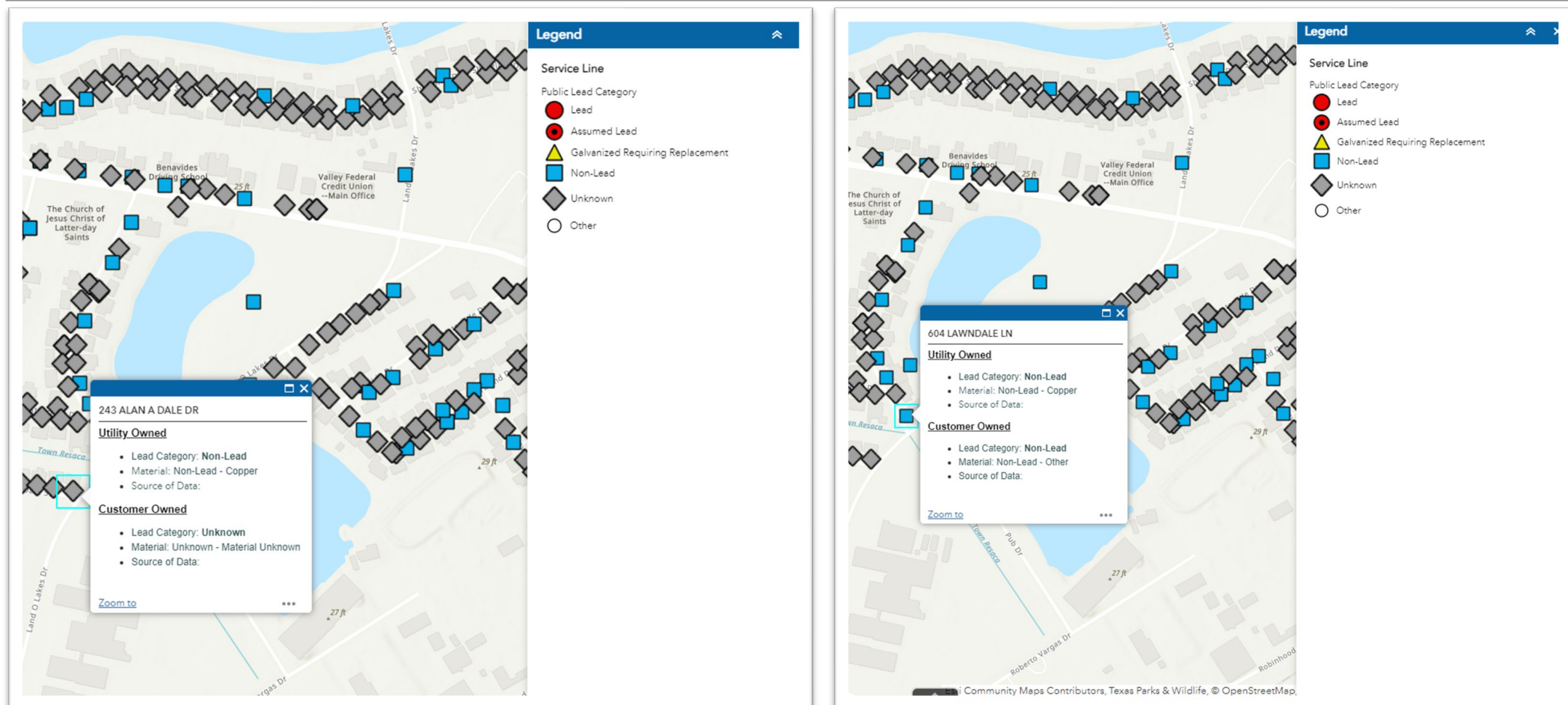
[Check your service line material](#) [Self-report Service Line Materials](#)

<https://brownsvillepub.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=0fdfdceef8074469b0cbe3e76e980964>

BPUB LCR - Interactive Map



BPUB LCR - Interactive Map



BPUB LCR Website - Notices



Dear Customer,

We are writing to notify you that we recently completed an initial service line inventory for our water system. This inventory helps us identify the materials used in water service lines that deliver drinking water to residences from the main line. Service lines are partly owned by the Brownsville Public Utilities Board (on public property) and partly by the customer (on private property).

During the initial inventory, we were unable to determine the material of the service line that provides water to your home.

Currently, your service line material is classified as **UNKNOWN** in our inventory, and could potentially be made of lead. To ensure the safety and quality of your water, we need your help in identifying the material of your service line.

Your Water Service Line Consists of Two Parts:

- **Public Portion (BPUB-Owned):** BPUB owns this section, which runs from the water main to your property line.
- **Private Portion (Customer Service Line):** This section extends from your property line into your home. It is owned by you.

We need your assistance identifying the material of the private portion of the service line only.

How Do I Verify My Service Line Material?

- **Visual Inspection:** If you don't know your service line material, you can complete a visual inspection where the service line enters your home. Common service line materials include plastic and copper. Some service lines may be made of lead or galvanized materials. It can typically be found from the water meter to the shut-off valve or approximately 18 inches past the foundation.
- **Share Information:** If you already know the material of your service line or have any additional information that may indicate the service line material (i.e., previous service line replacements at your residence or residential build year), please let us know.

To share your home's service line information, please reach out to us via phone, email or complete the survey:

Phone: (956) 983-6160

Email: InventoryInfoDL@brownsville-pub.com

Survey: <https://bit.ly/BPUBSurvey>.

If the Brownsville Public Utilities Board finds lead service lines during our service line inventory, we will work to replace them with safe, non-lead materials, ensuring that all residents are served with safe and reliable drinking water.

P.O. Box 3270 Brownsville, TX 78523-3270
(956) 982-6100 Fax: (956) 982-6269



Estimado cliente,

Le escribimos para informarle que recientemente hemos completado un inventario inicial de las líneas de servicio de nuestro sistema de agua. Este inventario nos ayuda a identificar los materiales utilizados en las líneas de servicio que suministran agua potable a las residencias desde la línea principal. Las líneas de servicio son propiedad parcial de Brownsville Public Utilities Board (BPUB) (en propiedad pública) y parcialmente del cliente (en propiedad privada).

Durante el inventario inicial, no pudimos determinar el material de la línea de servicio que provee agua a su hogar.

Actualmente, el material de su línea de servicio está clasificado como **DESCONOCIDO** en nuestro inventario, y podría ser de plomo. Para garantizar la seguridad y la calidad de su agua, necesitamos su ayuda para identificar el material de su línea de servicio.

Su línea de servicio de agua consta de dos partes:

- **Parte Pública (Propiedad de BPUB):** BPUB posee esta sección, que va desde la línea principal de agua hasta el límite de su propiedad.
- **Parte Privada (Línea de Servicio del Cliente):** Esta sección se extiende desde el límite de su propiedad hasta su hogar. Usted es el propietario.

Necesitamos su ayuda específicamente para identificar el material de la parte privada de la línea de servicio.

¿Cómo puedo verificar el material de mi línea de servicio?

- **Inspección Visual:** Si no conoce el material de su línea de servicio, puede realizar una inspección visual donde la línea de servicio entra en su hogar. Los materiales comunes de las líneas de servicio incluyen plástico y cobre. Algunas líneas de servicio pueden ser de plomo o materiales galvanizados. Generalmente, se encuentra desde el medidor de agua hasta la válvula de cierre o aproximadamente 18 pulgadas más allá de la fundación.
- **Compartir Información:** Si ya conoce el material de su línea de servicio o tiene cualquier información adicional que pueda indicar el material de la línea de servicio (es decir, reemplazos anteriores de la línea de servicio en su residencia o año de construcción de la residencia), por favor infórmenos.

Para compartir la información de la línea de servicio de su hogar, comuníquese con nosotros por teléfono, correo electrónico o complete la encuesta:

Teléfono: (956) 983-6160

Email: InventoryInfoDL@brownsville-pub.com

Encuesta: <https://bit.ly/BPUBSurvey>.


Si Brownsville Public Utilities Board encuentra líneas de servicio de plomo durante nuestro inventario de líneas de servicio, trabajaremos para reemplazarlas con materiales seguros y libres de plomo, asegurando que todos los residentes reciban agua potable segura y confiable.

¿Qué es el plomo y cómo entra en el agua?

El plomo es un metal tóxico que puede afectar tanto a humanos como a animales. Por lo general, entra al agua potable cuando los materiales de plomería que contienen plomo se corroen. Las fuentes

P.O. Box 3270 Brownsville, TX 78523-3270
(956) 982-6100 Fax: (956) 982-6269

BPUB LCR Website - Survey



Brownsville Public Utilities Board Service Line Material Survey

The EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions require that all water systems in the United States complete an inventory of the materials used in our water service lines. The Brownsville Public Utilities Board has completed its initial inventory but unknown service lines still remain. Lines of unknown material could be made of lead or galvanized piping requiring replacement.

This inventory covers both the portion of the service line publicly owned, and the portion on private property.

We need YOUR HELP identifying your service line material.

The customer-owned portion of the service line typically enters the home or building on the lower level.

The most common material types are plastic and copper. Both galvanized iron and lead are gray metallic pipes. A magnet can be used to differentiate between the two, as galvanized iron is magnetic.

Please complete the form below to report the material of your service line. If you don't know the material, please submit a photo of where the line enters your building.

If you have any questions about reporting your service line material, please call us at 956 983-6160 or email us at InventoryInfoDL@brownsville-pub.com.

Your Name *

Address *

Include Unit # or additional information as applicable

Service Line Material *

☐ Copper

☐ Plastic

☐ Brass

☐ Galvanized Iron/Steel

☐ Lead

☐ Unknown

☐ Other Material (Please specify)

Inspection Date

Comments/Questions

Photo

Optional. Please include a photo of where your service line enters your building if you cannot identify the material.

LCR Project Phase II

(Lead and Copper Rule Improvements)

Identify “Unknowns”

Identifying unknowns between 2025-2027 will:

- Meet LCRI requirement
- Reduce the number of annual notices
- Eliminate the need for a Replacement Plan

(If BPUB can identify unknowns before 2027, a Replacement Plan will likely not be needed – Unless Lead or GRR service lines are identified in the system. All lead and GRR service lines must be removed within in 10 years (2037)).

Thank you!

Questions?



Home Energy Audit Pilot Program

Mirta Vasquez

Energy Efficiency & Conservation Coordinator

Energy Efficiency & Conservation Department

Agenda

- I. Program Overview
- II. Program Objectives and Goals
- III. Process Overview
- IV. Home Energy Audit Recommendations
- V. Questions

We're excited to announce that Brownsville Public Utilities Board will launch a new Home Energy Audit Pilot Program.

Home Energy Audit Pilot Program Overview

A Home Energy Audit is a comprehensive home assessment that empowers the homeowner to understand their energy consumption.

Participation is at no cost.

Any recommendations for upgrades or improvements to improve energy efficiency are solely the customer's financial responsibility. The customer is under no obligation to implement any of the recommendations from the audit.



Program Objectives and Goals

1. The objective of the program is to promote energy efficiency and conservation by encouraging homeowners to adopt sustainable practices, reduce energy consumption, and lower their utility bills.
2. The goal is to provide homeowners with the knowledge they need to improve energy efficiency in their homes.
3. The audit will highlight the importance of the customer's active involvement in making necessary changes to improve energy efficiency.
4. The audit recommendations will inform customers about the valuable rebates that can help support their implementation efforts.



Pilot Home Energy Audit Process Overview

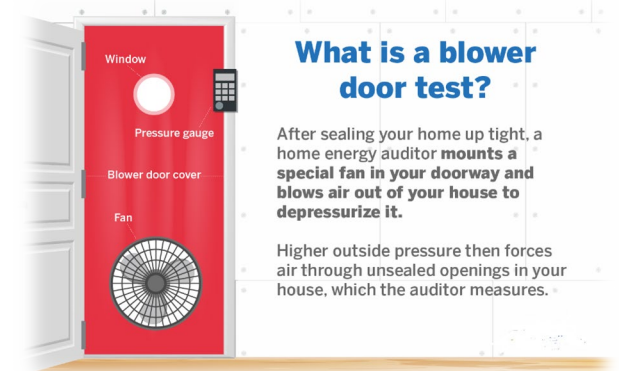


- The pilot program has a limit of 100 participants.
- The program is available only to residential electric customers of BPUB living in a single-family residence with an active BPUB residential account.
- The applicant must be the account holder.
- Audit duration is approximately 2-4 hours.
- The customer must be present at all times during the audit to provide access to necessary areas in your home.

Home Energy Audit Scope

The audit will collect data of energy usage, appliance efficiency, and other relevant household information.

1. HVAC
2. Attic Insulation
3. Window Verification
4. Duct Test
5. Blower Door Test
6. Additional Information



**Home Energy Audit
Pilot Program**

TO BE COMPLETED BY CUSTOMER (PLEASE PRINT)

Owner: _____ Phone Number: _____ BPUB Account #: _____
Address: _____ Brownsville, TX _____ Zip Code: _____
What year was the home built?: _____ How long have you lived in your home?: _____ # of people living in home?: _____
Sq Ft: _____ # of Bedrooms: _____ # of Baths: _____ Stories: _____ Volume: _____

INFORMATION ON A/C

A/C Location: _____ AHRI#: _____ Seer: _____ Seer2: _____ Brand: _____
Air Handler Model#: _____ Condenser model#: _____ Programmable Thermostat: _____ Y/N

INFORMATION ON ATTIC

Roof Covering: _____ Attic Insulation Type: _____ Wind Baffles: _____ Y/N
Depth: _____ R Value: _____

INFORMATION ON WINDOWS

Windows Type: _____ Single/Double Pane Tint: _____ Y/N Sunscreens: _____ Y/N
Covering: _____

DUCT TEST

Duct Test Results: _____ % of Leakage Energy Star is 6% or less _____

BLOWER DOOR TEST

Blower Door Results: _____ ACH Energy Star is 5 ACH or less (Air Changes per Hour) _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional Appliances: _____

Electronics

of TVs: _____ Home office: _____ Additional Electronics: _____
Lighting Type Interior: _____ Exterior: _____ # of Fixtures: _____

Home Energy Audit Recommendations

The Auditor will prepare a report with the audit results and recommendations for improving energy efficiency of your home at the conclusion of the audit.

The customer will receive:

- Audit Report
- Auditor Recommendations
- Key Terms and Definitions

BPUB offers Rebates for Key Components of the Home Energy Audit.

Rebates:

- HVAC
- Attic Insulation
- Energy Star Window
- Solar Screen & Film
- Duct Flow Retrofit

Little things that can really add up—Sealing air leaks in your home is one of the least costly and most effective energy-efficient actions you can take.



Questions?



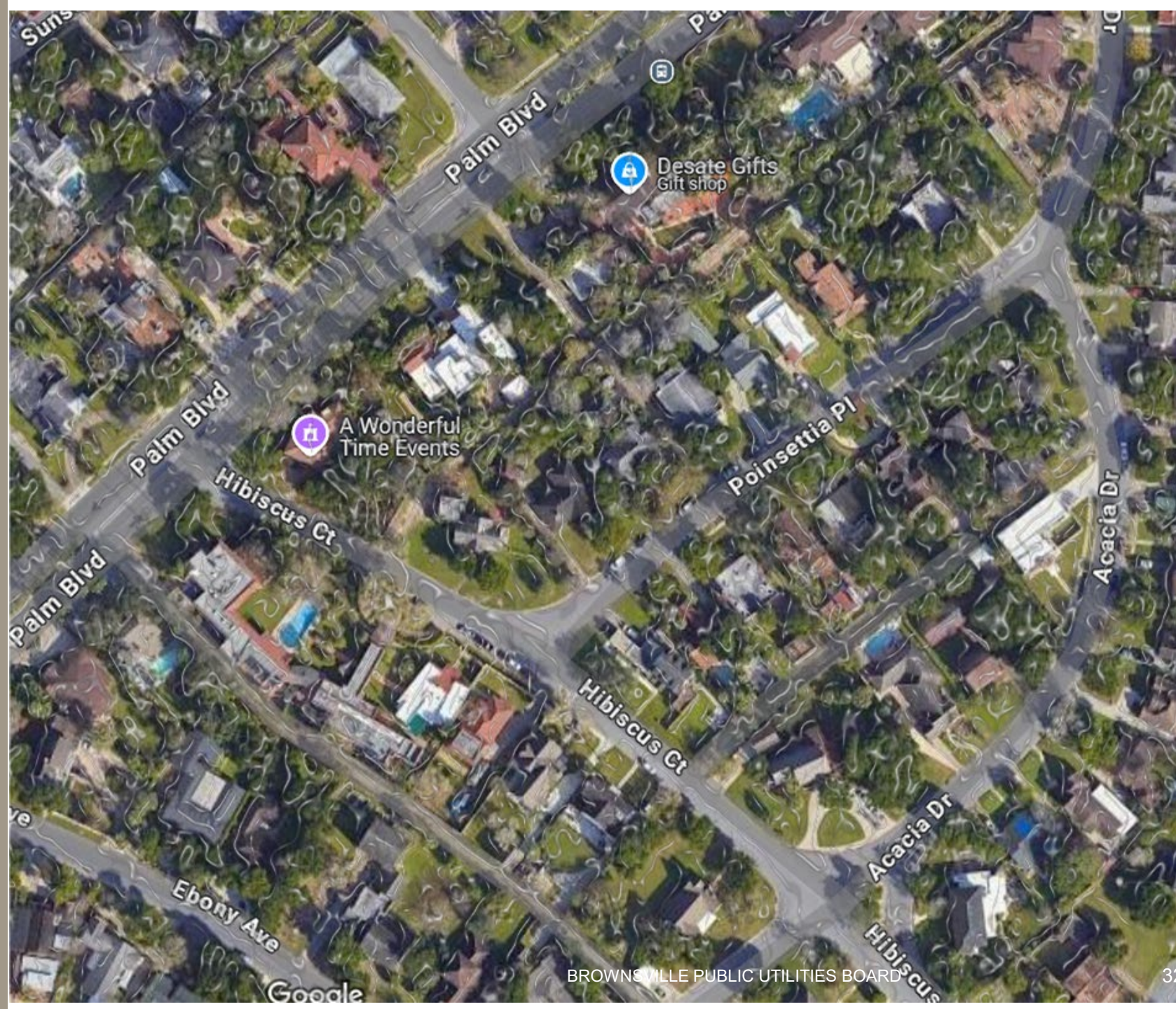
Vegetation Management Program

SAUL RAMIREZ

ELECTRIC PROGRAMS COORDINATOR

OUTLINE

- ❑ OBJECTIVE
- ❑ PROGRAM
- ❑ SAFETY FIRST
- ❑ BPUB COMMITMENT
- ❑ TRADE A TREE
- ❑ QUESTIONS



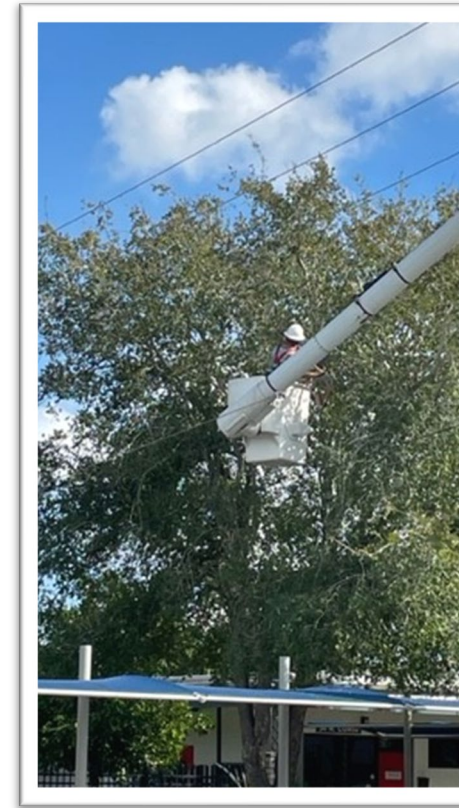
Objective

Inform the community of the BPUB
Vegetation Management Program
and the hazards of planting vegetation near
power lines.



Vegetation Management Program

- BPUB Vegetation Management Program is to ensure BPUB's Electrical Transmission and Distribution Lines are clear of obstructions to eliminate/minimize vegetation-related outages.
- BPUB offers this service at NO COST to our customers.

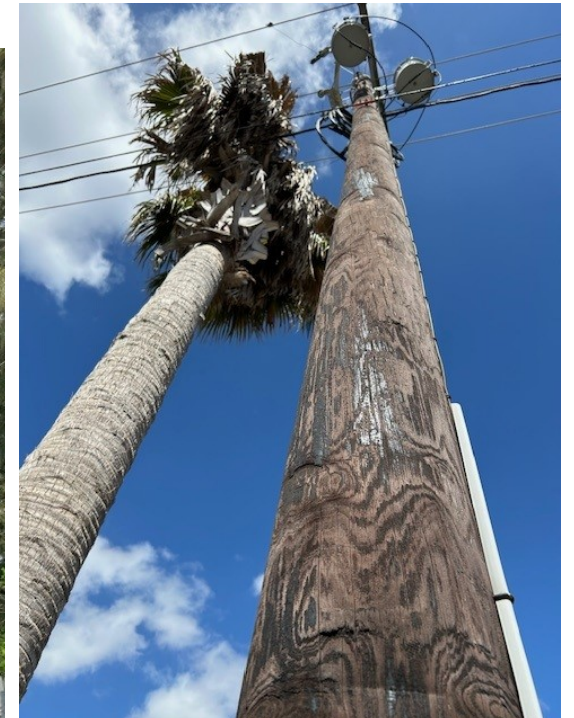


Vegetation Management Program

Vegetation under Service Wires connected to customer meter.



Vegetation under HV Electric Lines



Vegetation Management Program

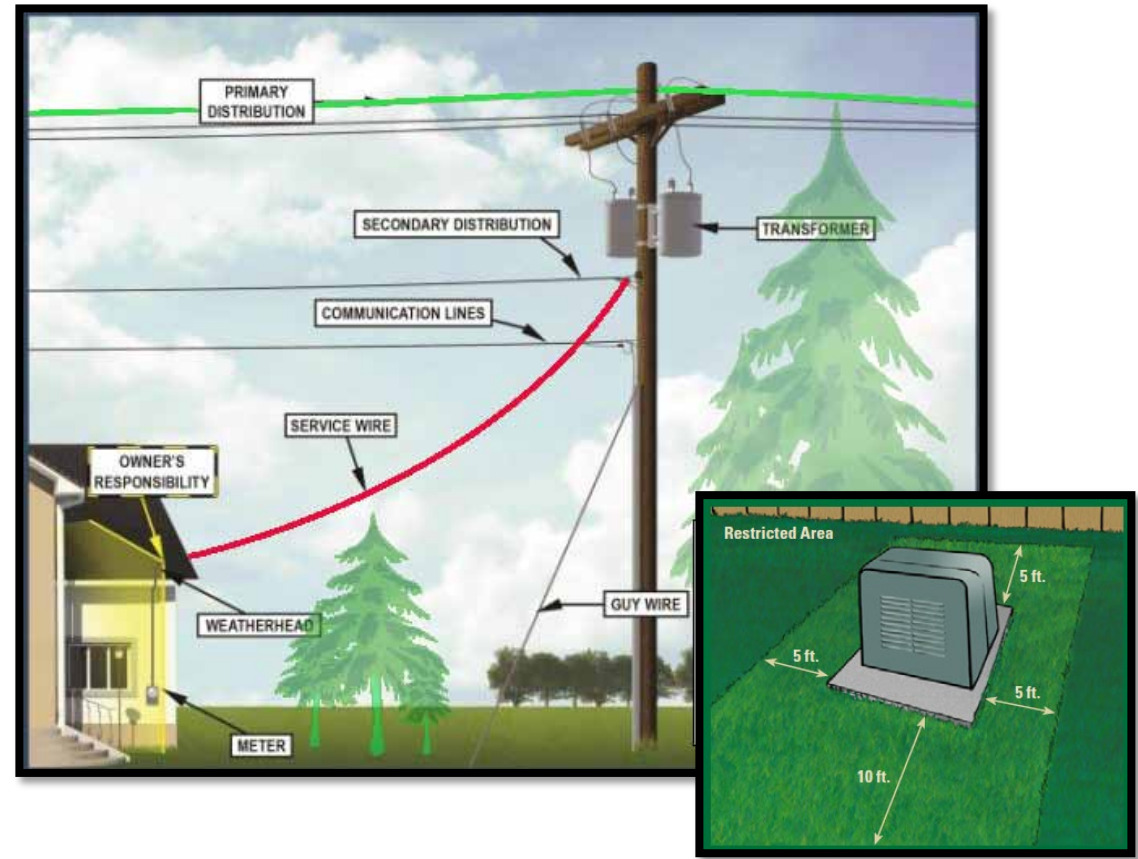
- To ensure maximum efficiency, BPUB outsources VEGETATION MANAGEMENT to specialized companies to execute the Program.
- BPUB's current Vegetation Management contractor is ASPLUNDH Tree Expert Company



Vegetation Management Program

STANDARDS AND PRACTICES

- IEEE Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.
- ANSI American National Standard Institute.



Vegetation Management Program

STANDARDS AND PRACTICES

- Vegetation clearing is achieved by manual and/or mechanical methods.
- Bucket Trucks
- Ladders
- Hoists
- Pole Saws



Safety First

DO NOT TRIM TREES AROUND POWER LINES YOURSELF.

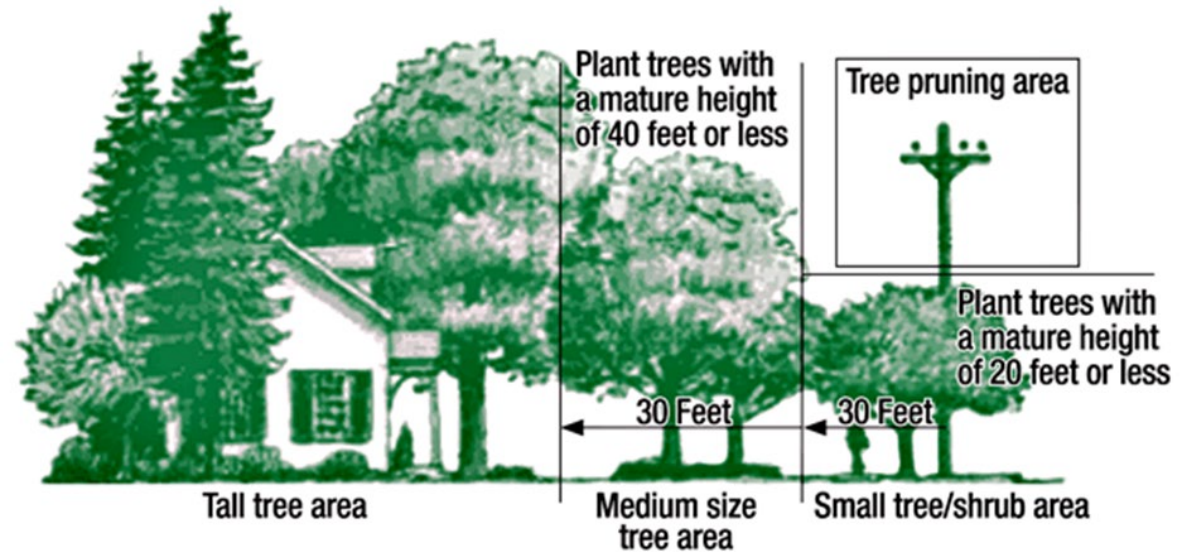
- Serious injury or death can occur when trimming trees around energized power lines.
- Only professionals authorized by BPUB are allowed to trim or remove trees next to energized power lines.



Safety Starts Here!

PLANTING THE RIGHT TREE IN THE RIGHT PLACE

- Palm trees and pine trees can grow very tall.
- If you choose to include palm or pine trees in your landscape, BPUB recommends a planting distance of 30-60 feet from power lines to reduce the risk of contact with fronds during high winds.



BPUB Commitment

- *The Tree Line USA –Arbor Day Foundation.

5 core standards

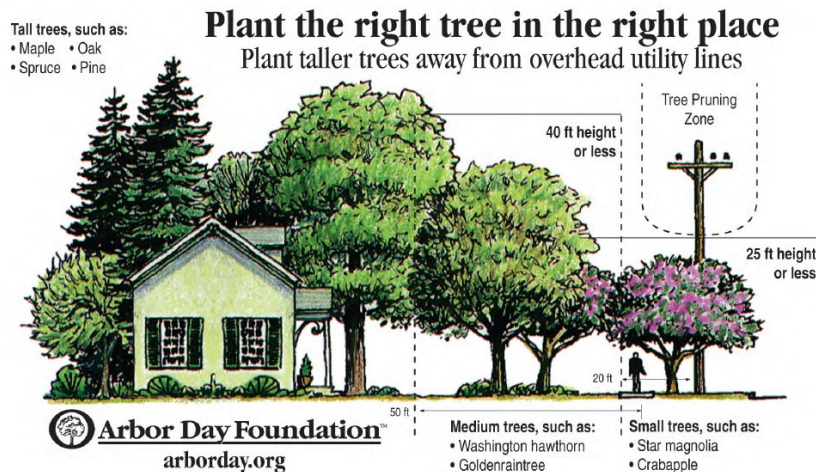
- *Quality Tree Care
- *Annual Worker Training
- *Tree Planting and Public Education
- *Tree-based Energy Conservation program
- *Arbor Day Celebration



BPUB Commitment

TRADE A TREE PROGRAM

- The purpose is to remove and replace trees that represent an electric hazard with BPUB primary lines.



BPUB Commitment

COMMUNITY INTERACTION

- *BPUB Employees Training
- *Brownsville ISD (Students, Teachers and Parents)
- *City of Brownsville



Report an Issue

Call BPUB at 956-983-6100

Brownsville PUB (brownsville-pub.com)



Report a Service Issue

Have a service-related issue? Use our online reporting tool to report it without waiting on hold.

- ✓ Report issues with electric, water, street, lights or other services
- ✓ Get realtime status updates
- ✓ Pay your bill online.

Our app is free to use on Android or iOS mobile devices.

Report an Issue





QUESTIONS?



Public Comments



Next Meeting Date

JANUARY 15, 2025



Adjournment
