

Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) Award Finalists

This award recognizes companies who are leading the charge to accelerate ESG and deliver quantifiable results.

Entry Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criteria outlined must help to better determine the future financial performance of the company.

Submissions Overview

Environmental, Social & Governance Award Finalists		
Company Name	Program Name	ID Number
Spire	Sustainability Report FY2021	ESG-2
Atmos Energy	Kentucky’s Fish Habitat	ESG-7
Southern Company Gas	Virginia Natural Gas Sustainable Gas Filing	ESG-9

Nomination ESG-2	
SGA Member Company Name	Spire
Program Name	<i>Sustainability Report FY2021</i>
Program Description	<p>At Spire, we’re deeply rooted in our mission to answer every challenge, advance every community where we live and work, and enrich every life through the strength of our energy. And for the employees of Spire, and the communities and people we serve, that means living into accountability and always striving to do more – and sharing progress toward our goals.</p> <p>On June 22, 2023, Spire published its 2021 Sustainability Report. The report provides an overview of activities and accomplishments achieved during the fiscal year 2021 – initiatives and work that move the company toward becoming</p>

	<p>carbon neutral by midcentury, while show continued progress across four key priorities: the environment, safety, people and governance.</p> <p>The 2021 report was reimagined to feature a new format reflective of Spire’s role in helping to establish and uphold a sustainable energy future for the customers and communities. The 2021 report expands upon Spire’s three previous Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) reports, highlighting Spire’s continued environmental, social and governance (ESG) efforts.</p> <p>In addition, the expanded report features more robust reporting, including, for the first time, disclosures aligned with ONE Future, the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) and the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). With the FY21 report, Spire achieved 98% compliance with the Global Reporting Index (GRI).</p> <p>National recognition For four consecutive years, Spire has earned national recognition as one of America’s Most Responsible Companies, with Newsweek citing strong performance in three areas – environment, social and corporate governance.</p>
<p>Results of/Response to the Program</p>	<p>Overarching results of our sustainability efforts: With the FY21 report, Spire has achieved 98% compliance with the Global Reporting Index (GRI).</p> <p>Highlights of the report and our work include:</p> <p>ENVIRONMENT In support of Spire’s commitment to become a carbon neutral company by midcentury, Spire achieved a reduction in methane emissions from its core gas utility distribution system by a cumulative 46% since 2005 and is on target to reduce these emissions by 59% by 2025 and 73% by 2035.</p> <p>In FY21, Spire established a dedicated team to lead environmental commitment efforts and made significant progress in measuring baseline statistics, creating a baseline for Scope 1 (greenhouse gas emissions released directly from owned or controlled assets) and Scope 2 (indirect emissions from purchased electricity and steam) GHG emissions.</p> <p>In addition, Spire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported environmental efforts in their communities through financial contributions and employee volunteerism • Increased active participation with ONE Future Coalition

	<p>by submitting its first reporting data, which demonstrates how the company is working to reduce methane emissions across the natural gas value chain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Became a founding member of Energy Capital Ventures' new fund focused on natural gas innovation and research in clean energy solutions <p>SAFETY Safety is a core value at Spire, with the safety and security of employees one of the company's greatest responsibilities. In FY21, Spire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deployed new technology to promote safe driving of company vehicles • Promoted programs and initiatives to encourage employees to proactively identify and correct potential hazards in the workplace before they present risk • Continued to implement coronavirus safety protocols to keep employees and customers safe <p>PEOPLE With 3,700 employees dedicating their time, talent and passion to serving customers every day, Spire strives to foster a safe and inclusive culture where everyone feels they belong. Building, engaging and developing a diverse workforce is a critical piece of Spire's future success.</p> <p>And as champions of people, Spire connects with customers to discover new and emerging challenges they face and develop strategies to enhance customer benefits and services in the future.</p> <p>In addition, Spire continued to advance the communities they serve through targeted investments in charitable organizations and economic development initiatives, as well as sponsorships and memberships in organizations that align with the company's values and business strategy.</p> <p>In FY21, Spire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measured workforce demographics to establish a baseline and identify areas of focus and opportunity. This helped develop new and innovative ways of building diverse talent while creating opportunities for employees to grow and advance • Expanded partnerships with trade schools, universities, community and professional-based organizations to build a pipeline of diverse job candidates • For Spire Missouri customers, conducted a second series of Fresh Perspectives Listening Labs to listen, learn and gain a deeper understanding of customers' needs and perspectives
--	---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued customer outreach efforts to connect customers with needed support and resources, such as enhanced online tools and access to energy assistance • Offered energy-efficiency programs, including weatherization, rebates and financing, to help customers save energy and money • Supported the communities they serve with more than \$6.5 million, a 22% increase over the FY20 spend. Spire also matched 368 employee gifts, totaling \$121,769 in donations to support organizations employees care about most. Since 2017, Spire has contributed nearly \$500,000 in matching gifts to nonprofits <p>GOVERNANCE Spire's focus on operating with integrity and environmental sustainability to create value for employees, customers, communities and shareholders continues to be key. In FY21, Spire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formally assigned oversight of sustainability to specific committees of Spire's Board of Directors to monitor strategy and plans, and ensure that progress is made on ESG commitments • Maintained a well-qualified, independent Board of Directors that is 50% female • Regularly reviewed governance practices and continued to update policies in accordance with stakeholder expectations • Further developed their commitment to supplier diversity <p>For four consecutive years, Spire has earned national recognition as one of America's Most Responsible Companies, with Newsweek citing strong performance in three areas – environment, social and corporate governance.</p> <p>Digital metrics: Since its launch, Spire's 2021 Sustainability Report has garnered nearly 4,000 unique pageviews. Moreover, the digital report content has served as a gateway for site visitors to learn more about Spire, including information about doing business with Spire, Spire news, and Spire's environmental commitment and progress.</p>
<p>Contribution to "Connecting People, Ideas & Information"</p>	<p>At its very core, Spire's 2021 Sustainability Report is a vehicle for connecting people, ideas and information. More specifically, the report provides employees, customers, communities, shareholders and other stakeholders with progress on our company's progress on four key priorities - key priorities: the environment, safety, people and governance. The report shares progress reports and data, as well as stories that connect the work we are doing with positive impacts in the lives of our customers and the communities we serve.</p>

	"As the energy landscape shifts and evolves for a more sustainable future, we continue to stay focused on keeping our promise to champion people while caring for the planet we share," said Suzanne Sitherwood, Spire president and CEO. "I'm proud of how we met the challenges of FY21 with drive and grit, all while delivering the affordable, reliable and clean energy that our customers and communities depend on."
Supporting Documents	Click to view.
SGA Membership Category	Associate Member

Nomination ESG-7	
SGA Member Company Name	Atmos Energy
Program Name	<i>Kentucky's Fish Habitat</i>
Program Description	<p>Atmos Energy recognizes the value of protecting the natural environment, and we work to minimize our impact in the areas where we operate. Before beginning a project, we conduct a comprehensive environmental review to understand our potential impact on water resources, state- and federal-listed species, habitat, and cultural resources. When a project is finished, we strive to leave the smallest possible footprint.</p> <p>Since 2015, employees in Kentucky have partnered with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to provide discarded piping for underwater fish “trees” in lakes and reservoirs throughout the state. These artificial fish habitats are structures that provide shelter and sustain freshwater fish, providing places where they can spawn, feed, hide, and grow to maturity.</p> <p>In constructing the fish habitats, a large-width pipe forms the “trunk,” which can be anywhere from 6 to 8 feet tall. To attach smaller “limbs” to the trunk, a hole saw is used to drill small openings up and down the trunk. Pegs made from small-diameter gas pipe hold the “limbs” in place. The 20-by-20-inch base is made from a wooden frame reinforced with rebar and filled with concrete. After the concrete sets, the base weighs approximately 120 pounds. Several trees are then placed</p>

	on a trailer and hauled to a state-owned or state-managed lake, where they are loaded onto a work boat for deployment.
Results of/Response to the Program	In 2022, this project received a Conservation Certification from the Wildlife Habitat Council. Since program inception, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources’ Fisheries Division has used more than 80,000 feet (15.15 miles) of scrap or expired Atmos Energy pipe that was destined for a landfill. The pipe has been used to construct more than 3,000 fish habitat structures in more than 20 lakes and reservoirs across Kentucky.
Contribution to “Connecting People, Ideas & Information”	Maps detailing the locations of these fish habitat structures can be found on the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife’s Lakes with Fish Attractors webpage. Additionally, downloadable GPX files are available for anglers to add lake specific locations to their personal sonar units.
Supporting Documents	Click to view.
SGA Membership Category	Distribution

Nomination ESG-9	
SGA Member Company Name	Southern Company Gas
Program Name	<i>Virginia Natural Gas Sustainable Gas Filing</i>
Program Description	Provides regulatory approval for Virginia Natural Gas, a subsidiary of Southern Company Gas, to make sustainable gas (certified lower methane natural gas (Next Generation Natural Gas) and renewable natural gas (RNG)) purchases as well as infrastructure (RNG interconnection) investment. This effort is another milestone in our years of building value chain efforts in support of Next Generation Natural Gas and our system-wide efforts to support RNG solutions.
Results of/Response to the Program	Virginia Natural Gas is the first local distribution company in the state to establish a Commission-approved tariff that allows an interconnection between an RNG production facility and a natural gas utility’s distribution system. “At Virginia Natural Gas, we are committed to supporting the development of renewable energy sources as we pursue our climate and environmental goals,” said Robert Duvall, president of Virginia Natural Gas. “The approval of this pilot program is a significant step as we move forward to

	<p>develop sustainable, environmentally responsible solutions while helping our state lead in the progress toward a clean energy future.” With the approval of this program, VNG has been able to leverage the program to procure additional amounts of Next Generation Natural Gas, and as of March 2023, VNG had secured up to 50% of its customers’ current natural gas needs with Next Generation Natural Gas (NextGen Gas) that is certified to be produced with lower greenhouse gas emissions.</p>
<p>Contribution to “Connecting People, Ideas & Information”</p>	<p>The program supports economy-wide decarbonization efforts across the natural gas supply chain and is complementary to the company's path to achieve net zero greenhouse emissions from its operations by 2050. Southern Company Gas is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions across our value chain, both upstream through the gas production and transmission systems that supply our gas and downstream to our customers. Our Next Generation Natural Gas supply is certified to be produced with lower GHG emissions than traditional natural gas supply. Our customers can feel good knowing that we have strong relationships with environmentally conscious producers focused on reducing methane emissions efficiently and effectively during the production cycle. The program also supports the deployment of Renewable Natural Gas, an alternative fuel from traditional natural gas produced from methane that is captured from landfills, agricultural, wastewater, food waste sites, and other methane sources. RNG has many environmental benefits, by beneficially using what would otherwise be wasted energy, reducing or offsetting GHG emissions associated with natural gas, and improving local air quality, and also offers local economic development opportunities for the state. This program also ties in with industry-wide collaborative efforts on sustainable gas opportunities, and provides a model for natural gas utility decarbonization efforts and policy in partnership with state regulators and other stakeholders.</p>
<p>Supporting Documents</p>	<p>Click to view.</p>
<p>SGA Membership Category</p>	<p>Distribution</p>