

Sponsorship Levels

The Rights-of-Way as Habitat Working Group (the Working Group) accepts direct funding and in-kind contributions to support Working Group activities. Administrative fees for conservation agreement enrollment are not eligible as sponsorship contributions. See the [Sponsor Organization](#) membership description for more details.

Below are the accompanying sponsorship levels and corresponding recognition benefits. Benefits of Sponsor Organizations are based on the approximate value of the direct funding or in-kind contributions. In-kind contributions must be documented to receive the identified benefits. Benefits apply for up to a year proceeding when the sponsorship is given.

Sponsorship Level	Contributor \$2,500+	Supporter \$10,000+	Leader \$25,000+	Sustainer \$50,000+
Organization name and logo on the Working Group's website for one year	✓	✓	✓	✓
Use of the "Sponsor Organization" logo	✓	✓	✓	✓
Recognition on related Working Group product (e.g., tool, resource, event, etc.)		✓	✓	✓
One complimentary registration for an in-person Working Group-hosted event		✓	✓	✓
Two complimentary registrations for an in-person Working Group-hosted event			✓	✓
Three complimentary registrations for an in-person Working Group-hosted event				✓
Opportunity for a 5-minute lightning presentation at a Working Group event (webinar, roundtable, or in-person workshop)			✓	✓
"Sponsor Organization" acknowledgement in one quarterly Working Group e-blast			✓	✓
"Sponsor Organization" acknowledgement in four quarterly Working Group e-blast				✓

2025 Featured Project Sponsorship Opportunities

The following activities (listed alphabetically) are high priorities for the Working Group in 2025.

Action Teams

Managing habitat on energy and transportation lands requires addressing an evolving array of questions and needs. By convening industry practitioners and researchers, the Working Group identifies and helps respond to these ever-changing needs. Sponsoring the development and support of action teams allows the UIC Sustainable Landscapes team to prioritize specific topics, convene stakeholders, and develop collaborative strategies and resources. Priority topics already identified include:

- Mitigating wildfire risks as part of vegetation management efforts
- Understanding uses and limitations of mobile device applications for species-identification
- Technical resources to inform nature-based sustainability reporting
- Aiding implementation of the native seed strategy
- Identifying and reducing invasive species on energy and transportation lands
- Discussing and identifying opportunities for remote sensing on energy and transportation lands
- Exploring roadside pollinator mortality research and best practices
- Integrating habitat programs with environmental justice and climate resilience initiatives

Propose an action team: Have an action team idea and would like to co-host the team? Reach out to us to discuss.

Geospatial Habitat Database 2.0

The original geospatial habitat database was created as a resource to help Working Group members track habitat efforts across working landscapes. In 2025, the UIC Sustainable Landscapes team plans to make substantial updates to the geospatial database that will include interface refinements and development of online mapping and reporting features. These updates will not only help record where users are conducting habitat efforts but also aid in understanding the landscape context and aspects of nature and biodiversity potentially interfacing with their work.

Planning Working Group Meetings and Webinars

In-person meetings are at the heart of the Working Group and provide invaluable opportunities for cross-sector collaboration, knowledge exchange, problem-solving and strategy development, member recognition, and inspiration and capacity building for habitat conservation on energy and transportation lands. Meetings include the annual Working Group member meeting, in-person conferences and workshops on targeted topics, and gROWing regional habitat meetings, among others. Webinars also provide an easily accessible forum for discussing important topics on regulations, technology, research, and best practices on energy and transportation lands.

Sponsorship of meeting and webinar planning enables the UIC Sustainable Landscapes team to design and organize meetings and webinars on a regular basis and ensure they are diverse in their engagement, location, and activities. Organizations are encouraged to help host events, provide in-kind donations, and/or offer planning support. Additional sponsorship opportunities are typically available for specific in-person meetings via separate sponsorship prospectuses.

Website Refresh

The Working Group's website is an open-source repository of resources, case studies, tools, and connection points for Working Group members and other interested individuals. The website has more than 1,000 visits each month. The website provides a platform to learn about best management practices for creating and conserving habitat on rights-of-way and other energy and transportation lands and connect with experts and peers in the industry. In 2025, the UIC Sustainable Landscapes team would like to update and rebrand the website to make functional and organizational changes that will improve user experiences, increase accessibility, and enhance website functionality for years to come. Desired updates

include an updated layout for easier accessibility, improved navigation for the resource library, news, and events, and greater access to information on projects and initiatives.

Working Group Engagement and Innovation

The Working Group brings together a unique network of professionals from across private industry, government agencies, non-profit organizations, and academia to advance habitat conservation in the energy and transportation sectors. The University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) Sustainable Landscapes team works actively to facilitate new opportunities to engage and convene diverse stakeholders around habitat-related topics, support technical resource and knowledge exchange, and build innovative and collaborative conservation strategies. Sponsorship of Working Group engagement and innovation recognizes the time and effort required by the UIC Sustainable Landscapes team to support a vibrant and active network, proactively respond to member needs, track industry trends, serve as a go-to resource and clearinghouse for habitat-related information, and represent the Working Group at the forefront of conservation planning.