

Bat Conservation International

In December 2022, Apex Clean Energy awarded a \$200,000 conservation grant on behalf of El Sauz and Young Wind to Bat Conservation International (BCI). The grant will benefit the conservation of a bat population colony of Mexican free-tailed bats roosting in an old cotton warehouse in Huntsville, Texas.

About the Mexican Free-Tailed Bat

The cotton warehouse in Huntsville, Texas was initially used for housing cotton and other goods—until a large fire in the 1990s rendered the building unusable. A colony of Mexican free-tailed bats took up residence in the building in 1997 and has since grown to become one of the largest urban bat colonies in Texas, with an estimated 750,000 to 1,000,000 bats using the structure as a maternity roost, migratory stopover, and hibernation site.

The grant will allow BCI, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to assess the condition of the existing roost within the warehouse and develop designs to either renovate the structure or construct a new, similar one. BCI has established a primary goal of preventing the dispersal of the colony into surrounding structures, businesses, and homes of Huntsville in the event of structural failure or demolition. In addition to helping provide a sustainable long-term habitat for the bats, the grant will be used for:

- using the colony as a bat education, outreach, and research center
- a local economic uplift for local businesses, as Huntsville visitors peruse shops and restaurants before viewing the bats' nightly flight emergences

Apex's donation was matched 1:1 by BCI with additional funding from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

About the Apex Conservation Grant Program

As a company with a core value of sustainability, Apex Clean Energy endeavors to not only minimize our projects' impacts, but also promote an ecological balance. Through the Apex Conservation Grant Program, each renewable energy project commercialized by Apex will contribute a sum of money, proportional to the size of the project, to support local or regional wildlife conservation, reforestation and flora restoration, protection of sensitive habitats such as grassland or wetlands, and other environmental conservation initiatives in or near project communities.

