

Ducks Unlimited

In May 2024, Apex Clean Energy awarded a \$40,000 conservation grant on behalf of Swiftwater Solar to Ducks Unlimited (DU) to support the restoration of Henderson Marsh within the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) at Tinicum, a 1,000-acre refuge located in Philadelphia and Delaware Counties, Pennsylvania.

About the Henderson Marsh Restoration

The Henderson Marsh restoration project is part of Phase 2 of the Delaware River Basin Program, a \$30 million conservation initiative designed to improve water quality, habitat, recreation, and flow management across the Delaware River watershed. Spanning approximately 150 acres, the project will reestablish tidal hydrology and enhance habitat for species of Greatest Conservation Need, including the American eel, least bittern, and a variety of turtle species. Apex's grant will fund the following key efforts:



- **Hydrology Restoration:** Creating a 45-foot-wide opening in a berm to reconnect the marsh to Darby Creek, restoring natural tidal flow
- **Habitat Creation:** Excavating tidal pools and establishing scrub-shrub islands, as well as restoring 16 acres of upland habitat for migratory songbirds and pollinators
- **Infrastructure Enhancements:** Installing a kayak launch, constructing an observation tower, and upgrading public trails to enhance recreational and educational opportunities
- **Ecosystem Services:** Improving flood control and water quality by trapping sediment and nutrients

Through partnerships with local schools and community groups, the project will also provide environmental education and outreach to over 8,000 children in Southwest Philadelphia. Efforts will prioritize engaging diverse and historically underserved populations, with more than 90% of residents belonging to minority groups and 35% considered low income. The restored marsh will offer year-round public access for outdoor activities and serve as a model for urban conservation.

The grant was matched by both Ducks Unlimited and VC Renewables, a Vitol company and the current owner of Swiftwater Solar.

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.