

**INDUSTRY** Utility Vegetation Management

**USER** CN Utility Consulting

**SOLUTION** ikeSolutions UVM



## CASE STUDY



### CNUC Case Study Snapshot

- » Field productivity improved by more than 50 percent
- » Improved decision making
- » 3-year labor savings of nearly \$100,000
- » 5 tools combined in 1 device
- » Improved safety and lower risk
- » Reduction of re-work/go-backs

### COMPANY BACKGROUND

CN Utility Consulting (CNUC) is a utility vegetation management (UVM) consulting and operations team serving utilities, regulators and UVM service providers across the U.S. and Canada. CNUC provides a wide variety of products and services, including utility arborists and foresters, turn-key UVM operations, program and compliance reviews, benchmarking and industry analysis, expert witness, and other legal and regulatory assistance.

*“The increased accuracy of field data collected with the ikeGPS lowers risk and improves decision making. It is clearly an investment that pays for itself.”*

—Derek Vannice, Vice President of Operations, CN Utility Consulting



*“We saw a 50 percent improvement in field productivity and project a 3-year \$100,000 savings in labor.”*

—Derek Vannice, Vice President of Operations, CN Utility Consulting



### **Project Challenge**

Each year, CNUC surveys thousands of miles of utility lines and vegetation. Their utility arborists require high performance tools to obtain data for tree inventories, work planning, storm damage assessment, and more. “For electric utilities and other contractors, labor is always the highest cost in field data collection,” said Derek Vannice, CNUC’s vice president of operations. “We were interested in exploring more productive and accurate solutions for data collection to see what effect they might have on that cost and other factors.”

CNUC performed an analysis of right of way tree assessments to determine the return on investment of the ikeGPS. CNUC compared using the ikeGPS to using the traditional combination of data collection devices, including a laser range finder, software, a digital camera, GPS and a 3D digital compass.

An industry standard process was followed to collect the data, including determining GPS location and measuring tree height, diameter at breast height, missing line, crown width, conductor height, and span distance.

### **The Solution from ikeGPS**

CNUC purchased ikeSolutions UVM, which includes an ike300, the Tree Assessment tool, missing line, span height, and ikeDesktop, which is used to easily create custom forms that represent any workflow. Accurate field assessments and measurements are recorded and time-stamped, allowing for data verification and validation at any given point. All of the data captured can be exported into multiple data file types that integrate into other mapping and office applications.

### **Results and ROI**

In the analysis CNUC conducted, they found that the time to conduct a tree assessment was greatly reduced with ikeGPS in comparison with the traditional combination of devices. Based on the field study, utilizing the ikeGPS in that one specific data collection task improved field production by more than 50 percent. An industry standard cost per labor hour calculation shows the increased productivity would result in nearly \$100,000 in savings over the course of three years.

Additional benefits of the ikeGPS include greater precision and accuracy when compared to traditional data collection tools. Safety is also improved, as the ikeGPS user can be located in a more distant location while still collecting accurate data. Combining five features in one device, the ikeGPS is also less cumbersome in the field.

### **To learn more, contact:**

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