The value and versatility of drones is soaring.

BGE is not the only organization that is putting drones to good work. They are being used by everyone from farmers to governments to real estate brokers for a wide variety of purposes. Here’s a rough breakdown of how more than 122,000 commercial drones* are being used.

*Source: U.S. Department of Transportation

**Source: FAA’s Unmanned Aircraft System Report

122,000
Total number of drones registered for commercial use*

How BGE is using drones to improve your service.

elevating smart energy.
Drones provide safer, easier access to equipment and more thorough inspections.

Drones are small, remote-controlled aerial vehicles that can safely investigate normally hard-to-reach areas. BGE uses drones to make aerial assessments of equipment that could be located in elevated locations, blocked by dense vegetation, or present some other high-risk access challenge. They are used in many ways, including power line inspections and storm damage assessments.

CAUTION: DRONES AT WORK
Drone operators will always be identified by a BGE hardhat and a yellow safety vest. If you observe BGE crews working in your neighborhood, please do not engage with a drone operator or approach or touch an active drone. Report all suspicious behavior to BGE customer service at 800.685.0123. As with any work area, please use caution when crews are working in your neighborhood.

To learn more about how drones are working to improve the reliability of your energy, visit BGE.COM/UAS.

Here’s why drones have become such a valuable tool in the maintenance, repair and replacement of BGE equipment:

- **Better imaging**
  High quality images and video from multiple angles provide more information about remote equipment than ever before. Potential issues can be identified sooner and addressed earlier.

- **Cost-effective**
  Often less than 10 pounds, drones operate at a fraction of the cost of full BGE crews that go through the time and trouble to reach elevated and/or remote equipment locations.

- **Faster**
  A drone can perform a full inspection of a site in the fraction of the time it would take for a crew to access the same equipment.

- **Safer**
  Drones allow BGE personnel to stay safely on the ground while inspecting poles and other equipment.

- **Training**
  Every drone operator is required to undergo rigorous training and pass an FAA certification exam.

- **Less disruptive**
  By flying drones directly to the targeted piece of equipment, it minimizes the need for crews to access private property and significantly reduces the environmental impact of equipment inspections.