



MICHIGAN BRIGHTFIELDS FACTSHEET

Understanding Brownfields & Brightfields

BROWNFIELDS

A “brownfield” is a property where site redevelopment or reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of contamination. Common brownfields include former industrial sites, inactive landfills, closed factories or power plants, and abandoned mines.

BRIGHTFIELDS

A “brightfield” is a clean energy project (typically solar) on a brownfield. As of October 2024, only 4 of the [624 brightfield projects completed in the United States](#) were in Michigan.

By the numbers: The potential of brightfields in Michigan

US EPA identified at least 3,436 Superfund, RCRA, brownfield, and landfill sites in Michigan that could be suitable for renewable energy. Repurposing **only 10% of the available acreage** for solar could result in:

	Potential Benefits	Description
Land	6,700 acres of greenfields avoided	Land preserved in the state for agriculture, recreation, conservation, or other uses
Power	950 MW of solar produced	Amount of clean power generated that would not be vulnerable to volatile fuel prices
Homes	158,000 homes powered	Equivalent # of homes powered with clean electricity
Jobs	5,300 jobs created and supported	# of jobs created from new projects, including 2,800 in construction, 1,400 in the local supply chain, and 1,100 jobs created by increased spending
Pollution	64 million tons of emissions reduced annually	Greenhouse gas emissions (CO ₂ equivalent) saved compared to MI 2024 resource mix

Data from RE-Powering Tracking Matrix (US EPA), Independent Statistics and Analysis (US EIA), Emissions & Generation Resource Integrated Database (US EPA), and Jobs and Economic Development Impact - Photovoltaic Models (US NREL)



Acreage By Site Type

Superfund	11,696
RCRA	25,169
Brownfields	23,961
Closed Landfills	7,015

Source: US EPA