



PENNSYLVANIA 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 12 of the [624 brightfield projects completed in the United States](#) were in Pennsylvania.

By the numbers: The potential of brightfields in Pennsylvania

US EPA identified at least 7,342 Superfund, RCRA, brownfield, and landfill sites in Pennsylvania that could be suitable for renewable energy. Repurposing **only 10% of the available acreage** for solar could result in:

Potential Benefits	Description
Land	117,000 acres of greenfields avoided
Power	16,000 MW of solar produced
Homes	2.7 million homes powered
Jobs	92,000 jobs created and supported
Pollution	790 million tons of emissions reduced annually

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	54,548
RCRA	31,972
Brownfields	9,783
Closed Landfills	8,100
Abandoned Coal Mine Lands	1,075,326

Source: US EPA