



COLORADO 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, of the [624 brightfield projects completed in the United States](#), only 10 were in Colorado.

By the Numbers: The Potential of Brightfields in Colorado

US EPA identified at least 2,585 Superfund, RCRA, brownfield, and landfill sites in Colorado that could be suitable for renewable energy. Repurposing **only 10% of the available acreage** for solar could result in:

	Potential Benefits	Description
Land	61,800 acres of greenfields avoided	Land preserved in the state for agriculture, recreation, conservation, or other uses
Power	8,600 MW of solar produced	Amount of clean power could be generated that would not be vulnerable to volatile fuel prices
Homes	~1.4 million homes powered	Equivalent # of homes powered with clean electricity
Jobs	~44,000 jobs created and supported	# of jobs created from new projects, including 25,000 in construction, 11,500 in the local supply chain, and 7,500 jobs created by increased spending
Pollution	~10 million tons of emissions reduced	Greenhouse gas emissions (CO2 equivalent) saved compared to CO 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	306,044
RCRA	199,956
Brownfields	77,130
Closed Landfills	17,486
Other Colorado Regulated Sites	17,096
Abandoned Mine Lands	75

Source: US EPA, CDPHE