

RE-Powering News

A Quarterly News Digest from EPA's RE-Powering America's Land Initiative



SPOTLIGHT

Harvard University Recognizes RE-Powering America's Land Initiative as a Top Government Innovation. See details below.

On May 1, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) RE-Powering America's Land Initiative was recognized as one of the Top 25 Innovations in American Government by Harvard University. "These Top 25 innovations in government offer real, tangible ways to protect our most disadvantaged citizens, educate the next-generation workforce, and utilize data analytics to enhance government performance," said Stephen Goldsmith, director of the Innovations in Government program at Harvard's Ash Center. "Despite diminishing resources, these government programs have developed model innovations that other struggling agencies should be inspired to replicate and adapt to their own communities." More information on the Innovations in American Government program and the Top 25 programs recognized can be found at www.innovations.harvard.edu. More information on the RE-Powering America's Land Initiative can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/renewableenergyland/>.

Our Mission

EPA launched *RE-Powering America's Land: Siting Renewable Energy on Potentially Contaminated Land and Mine Sites* to encourage the siting of renewable energy on thousands of currently and formerly contaminated properties across the nation.



1MW system on Chevron Molycorp site—Questa, NM

RE-Powering Accomplishments Report

In 2010, the RE-Powering America's Land Initiative released a Management Plan to serve as a two-year roadmap to guide the Initiative's



Solar Array at Volkswagen Assembly Plant in Chattanooga, TN. This site, formerly known as the Volunteer Army Ammunition Plant, was cleaned up through the RCRA corrective action program.

Photo Credit: Volkswagen Group of America

New Publications and Documents from the RE-Powering Team

New Fact Sheet: In May, EPA's RE-Powering America's Land Initiative released a new fact sheet entitled, *Financing Renewable Energy Projects on Contaminated Lands*. EPA developed this fact sheet as an introduction to financing renewable energy projects installed on potentially contaminated lands, landfills and mine sites. This fact sheet answers questions from site owners, renewable energy developers and communities concerning financing tools

activities. In that time, RE-Powering has propelled renewable energy development on contaminated lands from merely an interesting idea to an ever increasing portfolio of projects. The Initiative makes it easier to identify contaminated sites with renewable energy potential, explore opportunities and barriers, and develop projects through information, tools and outreach. In April 2013, the RE-Powering Initiative released a Program Accomplishments Report that highlights progress made to date on the Initiative's goals and actions. Overall, the RE-Powering team has developed and identified resources and tools to meet stakeholder needs, provided access to crucial information and data, and continues to promote a cohesive approach at the federal level to further RE-Powering Initiative goals. [More Info](#)

"I'm proud that federal agencies have reduced their greenhouse gas emissions by more than 15 percent since I took office. But we can do even better than that. So today, I'm setting a new goal: Your federal government will consume 20 percent of its electricity from renewable sources within the next seven years. We are going to set that goal."

*President Barack Obama,
Remarks on Climate Change
June 25, 2013*

and structures, as well as federal financial incentives that may be available for redeveloping former or potentially contaminated lands. [More Info](#)

Updated: This spring, the RE-Powering America's Land Initiative released an updated *Renewable Energy Projects on Contaminated Lands, Landfills, and Mine Sites* document. EPA uses readily available public information to develop this list of completed projects where renewable energy systems have been installed on contaminated lands, landfills and mine sites. Currently, EPA has information on over 70 renewable energy installations implemented on contaminated properties located in 26 states. Projects on this list include ground-mounted utility-scale systems, rooftop systems, and systems used for onsite power and represent a combined capacity of over 215 megawatts, comparable to the capacity of a mid-size, coal-fired power plant. [More Info](#)

Featured: Two recent posts on EPA's [It's Our Environment Blog](#) featured RE-Powering:

- *Renewable Energy – An Energizing Reuse of Contaminated Lands*. Posted May 7. [More Info](#)
- *Community Solar Garden at Brownfield Part of RE-Powering's Innovation*. Posted May 1. [More Info](#)

New EPA-NREL RE-Powering Feasibility Studies

EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) are evaluating the feasibility of siting renewable energy production on potentially contaminated sites. This effort pairs EPA's expertise on contaminated sites with NREL's expertise in renewable energy.

The following feasibility studies have been recently published. Links to these studies, as well as copies of feasibility studies completed in 2009 will be available on the [RE-Powering America's Land website](#). Note that this list includes feasibility studies that were funded by both EPA headquarters and EPA Region 5; they are arranged by technology, then by state.

- Brisbane, CA (solar): <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy13osti/57357.pdf>
- Marina, CA (solar): <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy13osti/58242.pdf>
- Salinas, CA (solar): <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy13osti/57893.pdf>
- Aurora, CO (solar): <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy13osti/57467.pdf>

- Delaware City, DE (solar): <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy13osti/58323.pdf>
- Savannah, GA (solar): <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy13osti/57958.pdf>
- Perry, IA (solar): <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy13osti/56793.pdf>
- Pleasantville, NJ (solar): <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy13osti/58480.pdf>
- Deming, NM (solar): <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy13osti/58368.pdf>
- Silver City, NM (solar): <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy13osti/57959.pdf>
- Lackawanna, NY (solar): <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy13osti/58194.pdf>
- Drums, PA (solar): <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy13osti/51321.pdf>
- Eden and Lowell, VT (solar): <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy13osti/57766.pdf>
- Snohomish, WA (solar): <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy13osti/58328.pdf>
- Shawnee, KS (wind): <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy13osti/57674.pdf>
- Rantoul, IL (biopower): <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy13osti/57770.pdf>

Recently Completed EPA-NREL RE-Powering Feasibility Studies



New Resource: In May, EPA’s Brownfields Program issued an updated *Brownfields Federal Programs Guide*, which is a compendium of technical and financial assistance that is available from federal agencies for brownfields and land revitalization projects, including renewable energy projects. It also includes information about assistance that is available through federal tax incentives and encourages communities to explore loans, loan guarantees, and other incentives. [More Info](#)

New Resource: DOE recently issued a Geothermal Regulatory Roadmap that will help developers navigate regulatory requirements at every level of government to deploy geothermal energy projects. In partnership with the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Forest Service, DOE enlisted NREL to convene key federal, state and local permitting officials, along with industry representatives, to identify potential opportunities for streamlining the efficient and responsible development of geothermal energy in the United States. The roadmap includes distinct flowcharts that address all federal and state regulatory requirements for developing a geothermal resource—from land use and leasing plans, to drilling exploratory wells, to developing a geothermal power plant. Comprehensive federal and state regulatory process flowcharts have been completed for eight geothermal-rich states: Alaska, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, and Utah. The next states slated for review are Colorado and Texas. [More Info](#)

Upcoming Webinars

Aligning Green Power Partners with New Renewable Energy Projects. July 24 from 1:00 - 2:30pm (EDT); hosted by EPA’s Green Power Partnership (GPP). This webinar will provide a forum for attendees to learn about new, not-yet-built renewable energy projects that may align with their energy, environmental and financial objectives. [More Info](#)

Renewable Energy Projects on Federal Lands: A Practical Guide and Examples. August 8 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm (EDT); hosted by EPA’s RE-Powering America’s Land Initiative. This webinar will present a practical guide developed by DOE’s Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) to help navigate the complexities of developing large renewable energy projects at Federal Facilities and attracting the necessary private capital to complete them. The [guide](#) is available for download from the DOE FEMP website. Renewable energy projects at two federal sites will be discussed as case studies. [More info](#)

Upcoming Conferences

Tribal Lands and Environment Forum. Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico; August 19-22.

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals, the National Tribal Waste and Response Assistance Training (TWRAP) Steering Committee, and EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER), will host the Tribal Lands and Environment Forum. There will be a session on renewable energy on contaminated lands. [More Info](#)

Renewable Energy Markets Conference. Austin, Texas; September 22-24.

Organized by the nonprofit Center for Resource Solutions and EPA, this annual meeting of clean energy and carbon-market stakeholders includes generators, marketers, utility representatives, purchasers, policymakers, and regional stakeholders, and sets the agenda for the year to come. [More Info](#)

Links of Interest

- **Solar on Landfills.** "Landfill Sites Find Reuse as Locations for Solar-Power Plants." May 19, 2013. thedailybeast.com. [More Info](#)
- **Solar on Landfills/Brownfields.** "N.J. regulators approve PSE&G's \$446 million plan for solar farms atop landfills, brownfields." May 29, 2013. nj.com [More Info](#)
- **Financing.** "How Real Estate Investment Trusts Can Change the Clean Energy Industry." June 5, 2013. rmi.org. [More Info](#)
- **State Solicitation.** New York: NY-Sun Competitive PV Program Opportunity Notice (PON 2589). Proposals Due August 29, 2013. [More Info](#)
- **State Solicitation.** New York: PV Balance-of-System Cost Reduction Program Notice (PON 2672). Round 1 Proposals due July 30, 2013; Round 2 Proposals due January 30, 2014. [More Info](#)

Contact Us

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