



OREGON 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 5 of the [624 brightfield projects completed in the United States](#) were in Oregon.

By the numbers: The potential of Brightfields in Oregon

US EPA identified at least 6,115 Cleanup, Superfund, RCRA, brownfield, and landfill sites in Oregon that could be suitable for renewable energy. Repurposing **only 10% of the available acreage** for solar could result in:

Potential Benefits	Description
Land	122,000 acres of greenfields avoided
Power	17,000 MW of solar produced
Homes	2.8 million homes powered
Jobs	95,000 jobs created and supported
Pollution	496 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	29,719
RCRA	2,637
Brownfields	9,609
Closed Landfills	2,465
Oregon DEQ Environmental Cleanup Program	1,175,190

Sources: US EPA, Oregon DEQ