Re-Powering News | A Quarterly News Digest
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RE-Powering News

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

SPOTLIGHT

EPA and the Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory issue best practices document to address common technical challenges for siting solar photovoltaics on municipal solid waste landfills. See details below.

New Publications and Documents

In February, the U.S. EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) jointly published *Best Practices for Siting Solar Photovoltaics on Municipal Solid Waste Landfills*. This document provides assistance in addressing common technical challenges for siting solar photovoltaics (PV) on municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills. Closed landfills and portions of active landfills with closed cells represent thousands of acres of property that may be suitable for siting solar energy systems. These closed landfills may be suitable for near-term construction, making these sites strong candidates to take advantage of the 30% Federal Business Energy Investment Tax Credit.

The Region 2 Solar Project Team described its experiences assessing the feasibility of installing solar energy systems at MSW landfills in New Jersey. The post, entitled *Region 2 Solar Project Team Visits MSW Landfills*, can be found on EPA's Greenversations Blog.

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.

Case Study

In 2009, the Massachusetts Military Reservation (MMR) was selected through EPA's RE-Powering America's Initiative to receive technical assistance from NREL for a solar feasibility study. The study involved a landfill area that is part of a federal Superfund site located within MMR. The study—which considered cost, performance and site impacts—was published in July 2011. A 6 MW solar array is being planned for this area and is expected to be completed within the next year. MMR is considering other opportunities to meet its power demands through renewable energy technologies and increased energy efficiency. MMR's efforts were highlighted in a January 2013 announcement by the Governor Deval

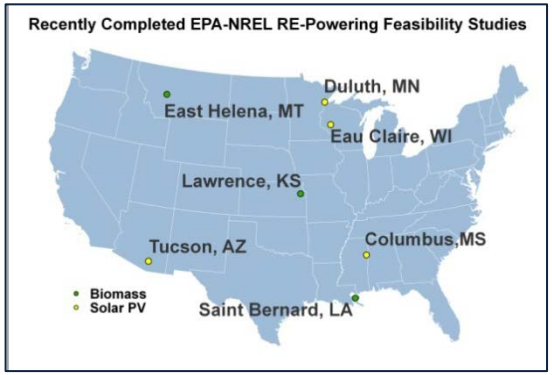
NEW EPA-NREL RE-Powering Feasibility Studies

The U.S. EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy's 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 were published recently. 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.

Solar PV

- Tucson, AZ: Vincent Mullins Landfill
- Duluth, MN: Atlas Industrial Park
- Columbus, MS: Former Kerr McGee Chemical Facility
- Eau Claire, WI: Sky Park Landfill



Biomass

- St. Bernard, LA: Former Kaiser Aluminum Landfill
- East Helena, MT: ASARCO Superfund Site
- Lawrence, KS: Former Farmland Industries Site

Webinars

Recent Webinar: Tenant Liability Considerations for Siting Renewable Energy on Contaminated Lands (February 4, 2013). The CLU-IN Internet Seminar titled "Tenant Liability Considerations for Siting Renewable Energy on Contaminated Lands" was delivered on February 4. A complete archive of this seminar is now available along with hundreds of other archived internet seminars for free download and replay at: www.clu-in.org/live/archive/.

Patrick administration that the Commonwealth is providing $1.5 million for comprehensive energy audits at all six of Massachusetts's military bases.

"Today, no area holds more promise than our investments in American energy…We have doubled the distance our cars will go on a gallon of gas, and the amount of renewable energy we generate from sources like wind and solar—with tens of thousands of good American jobs to show for it."

President Barack Obama,
State of the Union, 2013

Upcoming Conferences

National Brownfields Conference (Atlanta, GA. May 15-17, 2013). More Info

Panel session—*RE-Powering Re-Visited: Efforts to Site Renewable Energy on Contaminated Land*. Speaker: **Mathy Stanislaus**, OSWER Assistant Administrator. May 17.

Panel session—*Resources for Installing Solar on Brownfields*. Speaker: **Adam Klinger**, Center for Program Analysis, OSWER. May 17.

In the News

- Solar on Military Base. "Military Reservation Goes Green with Solar Energy." Cape Cod Times. January 18, 2013. More Info
- Solar at Auto Factory. "EPA Recognizes Volkswagen Chattanooga Operations Among Nation's Leading Green Power Users." Chattanoogan.com. February 5, 2013. More Info
- Solar on Landfills: "EPA Releases Best Practices Document for Siting Solar Photovoltaics on MSW Landfills." MSWManagement.com. March, 3, 2013. More Info.
- Greenfield Solar Farm. "Winner—Brownfields for Energy/Brownfields to 'Brightfield.'" BrownfieldRenewal.com. Accessed March 11, 2013. More Info.

Recent Activities

Legislation: On March 7, Senators Frank R. Lautenberg (NJ), James Inhofe (OK), Tom Udall (NM), and Mike Crapo (R) introduced Senate Bill 491 entitled, "Brownfields Utilization, Investment, and Local Development Act of 2013" or the "BUILD Act." This legislation would direct the Administrator to establish a program of "clean energy brownfields grants" to inventory, characterize, assess, plan, conduct feasibility analyses, design, or perform remediation activities to locate clean energy projects at brownfield sites. Grants must not exceed $500,000. A "clean energy project" is defined to mean "a facility that generates renewable electricity from wind, solar, or geothermal energy…" More Info.

New Resource: On March 11, the U.S. Department of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program published a new resource entitled, "Large-Scale Renewable Energy Guide—Developing Renewable Energy Projects Larger Than 10 MWs at Federal Facilities." As the title suggests, this document identifies best practices for planning projects larger than 10 MWs at federal facilities and represents a guide towards getting large-scale renewable energy projects financed with private capital. More Info.

New Resource: In February, the Environmental Law Institute published a document entitled "Siting Wind Energy Facilities—What Do Local Elected Officials Need to Know?" This guide is geared to helping local officials better understand issues associated with siting commercial-scale wind projects (commercial scale being defined as those facilities generating 5 MW or more of wind for sale to utilities). More Info.

Contact Us

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EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency