

# Mining the Sun/Transforming Mine Lands and Brownfields into Clean Energy Hubs: Nature Conservancy Report



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The Nature Conservancy (“TNC”) issued a report titled:

*Mining the Sun – Transforming Mine Lands and Brownfields into Clean Energy Hubs (“Report”)*

The Report focuses on the expanding practice of developing clean energy infrastructure on properties such as landfills, brownfields, and inactive mining sites.

The advantage in using those locations is the arguable greater avoidance of local opposition and impacts on nature. As a result, the Report states that:

... The concept of “recycling” brownfields, mine lands, and other former industrial sites for clean energy development has received growing interest by landowners, energy developers, nearby communities, and state and federal agencies.

Therefore, a stated purpose of the TNC Report is to provide experience and lessons about how such projects:

... can be developed more rapidly, at a lower cost, and using best practices to center communities.

The Report also concludes that there are areas where progress is needed to expand the role of such properties in siting clean energy structures which include:

- Establishing and consistently using best practices for robust engagements of communities and Native nations.
- Creating a virtual marketplace for candidate clean energy project sites.
- Sharing lessons from demonstration projects in a variety of venues to reach key audiences.
- Focusing policy initiatives on regulatory reforms that can accelerate clean energy development on mine lands, brownfields, and other former industrial lands.

Components of the Report include:

- Mining the Sun in Cumberland Forest
- Mining the Sun: A Win-Win Solution
- Transforming Brownfields into Clean Energy Hubs
- Brownfield vs. Greenfield Costs
- Federal Policy Landscape

- Advancing State Policy
- State Roadmaps

A copy of the Report can be downloaded [here](#).