RE-Powering America's Land:
Siting Renewable Energy on Potentially Contaminated Land, Landfills and Mine Sites

Through its RE-Powering America's Land Initiative, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) encourages renewable energy development on current and formerly contaminated lands, landfills, and mine sites when aligned with the community's vision for the site.

Building on existing paper versions of solar and wind decision trees, the RE-Powering Initiative expanded the concept into a downloadable computer tool that guides interested parties through a process for screening sites for their suitability for solar photovoltaic (PV) or wind installations.
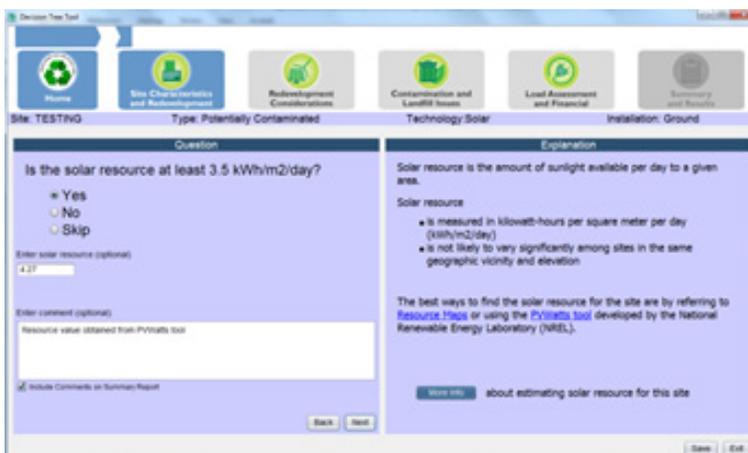
About the Tool

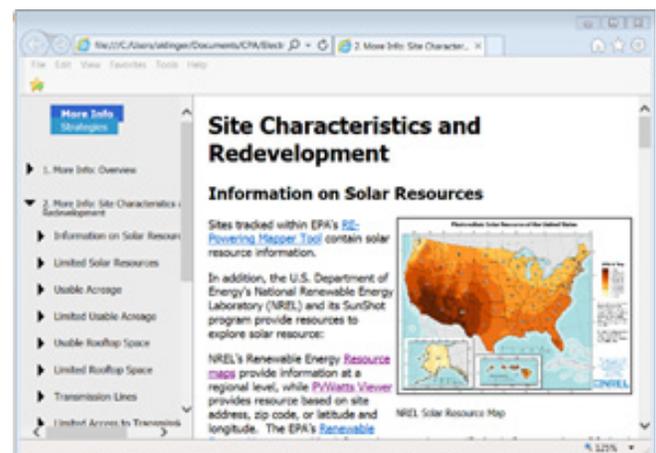The electronic decision tree is a downloadable computer application that:

- Explores potentially contaminated sites (e.g., brownfields, RCRA permitted, Superfund sites), landfills, and underutilized sites and rooftops
- Walks users through a series of Yes / No / Skip questions supplemented by tips and links to relevant tools and information resources
- Screens for site characteristics, redevelopment considerations, criteria specific to landfills and contaminated sites, energy load, policies and financial considerations
- Generates reports of the screening results and user annotations that can be printed and/or copied into another document

The tool comes with context specific information regarding the various considerations that go into screening contaminated sites for renewable energy. This informative "companion guide" is accessed by clicking on "More Info" or "Strategies" buttons on specific pages within the tool and opens a window on your computer containing additional information on the topic and related resources.

The decision tree tool is intended to engage non-experts in renewable energy to screen potentially contaminated or underutilized sites or landfills for whether they are good candidates for solar PV or wind projects. It is built so that more knowledgeable professionals can quickly navigate through the decision tree, and less experienced stakeholders can access additional information as they make their way through the questions. The tool is not intended to replace or substitute the need for a detailed site-specific assessment that would follow this kind of initial screening.

Application Features At-A-Glance

Technology
Solar- Ground Mount, Rooftop, Both
Wind - Ground Mount

Site Types
Potentially Contaminated Site; Landfill
Underutilized Site; Rooftop

Basic Parts
1) Application presents user a series of questions (Yes/No/Skip) with brief explanatory text
2) A companion guide that can be accessed from certain pages that provides additional specific information on the topic and related resources

Reports
- Site Screening Summary Report
- Data Entry Report
- Site Comparison Report
- All reports can be exported into MS Word

Please subscribe to the listserv *(http://yosemite.epa. gov/opei/opeipub.nsf/Re-powering)* and keep up-to-date with RE-Powering news and activities.

Yes/No/Skip questions guide users through the screening process

Companion Guide provides additional information and links to resources

For more information, visit www2.epa.gov/re-powering or contact cleanenergy@epa.gov