

## Beneficial Reuse Program

### Program Overview

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) mission is to fulfill DOE's post-closure responsibilities and ensure the future protection of human health and the environment. Sustainably managing and optimizing the use of land and assets by putting legacy sites into beneficial reuse supports LM's mission. LM considers multiple environmentally sound land uses for properties under its custody, and where possible, makes properties available for government, public, and private use.

The Beneficial Reuse Program promotes the productive use of LM-managed sites and assets that no longer serve a DOE mission after remediation, while being protective of human health and the environment. In 2017, LM developed a *Beneficial Reuse Management Plan* that outlines types of reuse, goals, and objectives of the program, criteria, metrics and planning of reuse activities. LM reviews land holdings periodically, and upon transition into its program, assesses and identifies beneficial reuse opportunities. LM also continually looks for opportunities to partner with other groups or agencies to identify and support potential reuse opportunities.

### Types of Reuse

LM has identified seven categories of beneficial reuse that may be considered for LM sites. LM will consider, evaluate, and potentially implement multiple reuses at its sites. LM's preferred option is to transfer the land to another party to reduce its overall land inventory and minimize long-term surveillance and maintenance (LTS&M) costs. However, many LM sites are not suitable for transfer because of the nature

of the contaminants and regulatory- or statutory-imposed restrictions regarding land use. For those sites, LM evaluates other types of reuse opportunities that might enhance a site's value and performance consistent with the LTS&M plan. Not all LM sites are suitable for beneficial reuse at the time of closure, but as communities change and technologies advance, new options for beneficial reuse may become available.

LM works with federal, state, and local community leaders, nonprofit organizations, city planners, and other members of the public to identify appropriate uses of land that will be compatible with current site conditions and with LM's LTS&M obligations and responsibilities.

The categories evaluated are as follows:

#### Disposal

Disposal is the permanent transfer of DOE real property assets to a third party who then has rights to control, use, or relinquish the property. Either a portion of a site or an entire site can be disposed.

#### Energy-related

Some LM sites are used for on-site or off-site energy-related activities, including solar photovoltaic, wind, biomass, landfill gas, waste-to-energy, and geothermal.

#### Conservation

LM's conservation reuse includes activities supporting natural resource protection, habitat development and enhancement, and wildlife management options at LM sites. Conservation reuse includes areas where a proactive measure has been implemented to create, restore, protect, or enhance a habitat.



Once a DOE property, the now privately owned Wayne, New Jersey, Site has been repurposed as a community playground.



The Fernald interpretive center and restored preserve in Ohio welcome visitors to enjoy nature and learn about the site's history.

Currently, LM manages a number of sites that have various conservation reuses such as protection of endangered or listed species (e.g., the Gunnison sage grouse). For these types of reuse, LM might partner with other federal, state, or private agencies.

### Commercial and industrial

Redevelopment or adaptive reuses of LM sites means repurposing LM facilities or land for industrial use; redeveloping sites for commercial purposes such as a cell tower site, warehouse, or office space; or supporting redevelopment of a parcel of land through an agreement or partnership.

### Community reuse

Community reuse refers to the development of open space or recreational areas, or using sites for educational purposes or community-driven activities.

### Agricultural reuse

Agricultural reuse includes the use of LM sites for activities such as livestock grazing, hay production, and livestock improvements.

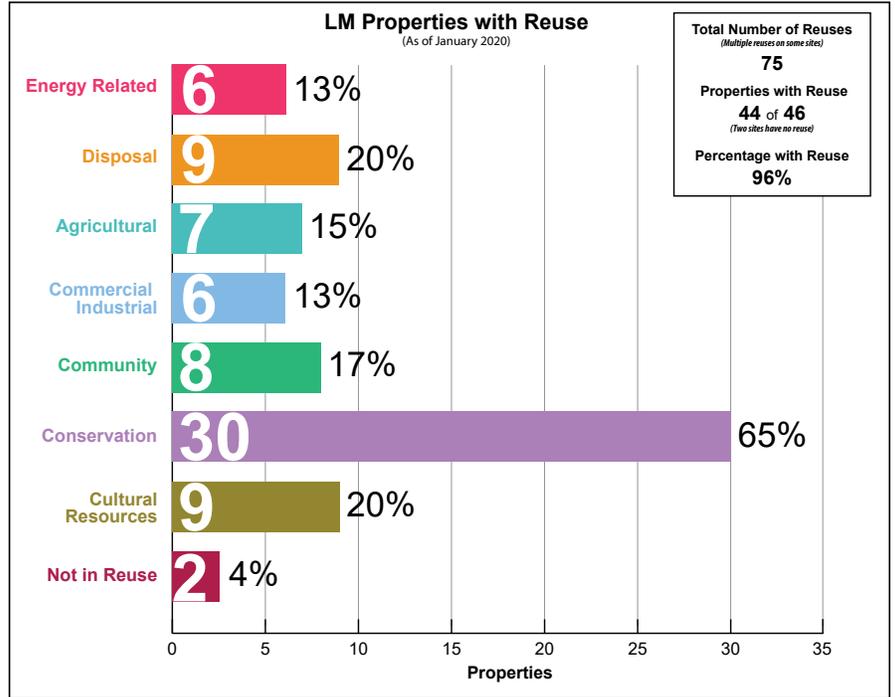
### Cultural resources

LM communicates the significant histories of its sites, by means of signage, interpretive centers, listings on historic registers, and other informational devices.

### Awards and Achievements

LM has been recognized for its accomplishments in environmental restoration, remediation, conservation, and overall beneficial reuse. LM received the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency National Federal Facility Excellence in Site Reuse Award for the National Priorities List category in 2019 for the Fernald Preserve, Ohio, Site, and in 2020 for the Weldon Spring Site, Missouri. The awards recognize noteworthy restoration and reuse of federal facility sites through innovative thinking and cooperation among federal agencies, states, tribes, local partners, and developers.

LM's interpretive centers are regularly open to the public for recreational and educational purposes. Renewable energy, such as geothermal or solar power, is utilized at the centers when available. The centers house interactive exhibits that showcase the history and legacy of the sites, the ecology of the surrounding areas, and highlight the extensive conservation work at the sites, which supports habitat for many pollinator species, threatened and endangered species. LM uses the interpretive centers to support its efforts in STEM education by hosting events and using activities and programming created by world-class educators to bring to life the incredible advancements of the nuclear age, cleanup, and ecological transformations of LM sites. The interpretive centers are incredible testaments of beneficial reuse.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

**IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY AT THE SITES, CONTACT 911.**

Information about **Beneficial Reuse** is available at [www.energy.gov/lm/services/property-management/beneficial-reuse](http://www.energy.gov/lm/services/property-management/beneficial-reuse)

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