



RCRA Corrective Action

Cleanup + Productive Use

Economic Profile

Foundry Disposal Area

Dubuque, Iowa

BEFORE

Iron and brass foundry and valve manufacturer

AFTER



Auto Parts
Shops



Steel
Wholesaler



Solar Array

CLEANUP OVERSEEN BY EPA

From 1896 to 1983, this iron and brass foundry in Dubuque, Iowa, manufactured brass valves. The Iowa Department of Transportation constructed U.S. Highway 61/151 in 1983, bisecting the site.

The foundry's waste disposal practices contaminated soil and groundwater at the site with lead as well as sludge from air pollution control scrubbers. Cooperation between the foundry, the state and EPA led to cleanup and groundwater monitoring starting in 1989, under EPA's RCRA Corrective Action program.

The site is now home to three industrial businesses and the 1.2-megawatt Port of Dubuque Solar Garden. These businesses employ over 50 people and generate nearly \$21 million in yearly sales.



53

EMPLOYEES



\$21 million

ANNUAL SALES



\$3 million

ANNUAL WAGES





THE SOLAR ARRAY AT THE PORT OF DUBUQUE HAS PROVIDED FERTILE GROUND FOR IMPROVED ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND QUALITY OF LIFE OUTCOMES FOR OUR RESIDENTS, ENHANCING THE SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY OF OUR COMMUNITY.

Roy D. Buol, Mayor of Dubuque

The Port of Dubuque Solar Garden was part of a two-part \$6.2 million investment in solar energy by the city of Dubuque. In 2018, the array earned the Envision Platinum rating from the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure – the program’s highest award and the first awarded to a solar project in the United States. The Port of Dubuque Solar Garden will help the city achieve its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50% between 2003 and 2030.

City planners took special care to integrate the solar garden into the rest of the site as well as the city. A walking and biking path connects to Dubuque’s trail system, wrapping around the site and providing a close-up view of the panels. An educational display at the solar garden attracts visitors and educates them about solar energy generation. The field beneath the panels also flourishes with native, pollinator-friendly prairie grasses and flowers that provide a new habitat for wildlife.

The cleaned-up site now provides environmental and ecological benefits, as well as economic opportunities at three on-site industrial businesses. The transformation of this mostly vacant and formerly contaminated site into a vibrant commercial and renewable energy center was a direct result of collaboration between private industry and city planners. Through their vision, the site’s redevelopment ushers Dubuque into a bright future.



The Port of Dubuque Solar Garden’s 3,500 panels can generate enough renewable energy to power more than 120 homes.



Three industrial wholesale businesses at the site distribute car parts and steel products to the Dubuque area. They employ over 50 people and provide an estimated \$3 million in employee income per year.

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