



Chevron Tests Solar Technologies

Leslie Klinchuch, Brightfield Project Manager

A project like this is an opportunity for us to learn a whole lot more about solar energy because it's going to be so important to the future energy needs of the world.

Tim Veale, Manager, Renewable Energy Services

We're at Project Brightfield in Bakersfield, California. I manage the day-to-day construction activities. Project Brightfield is a solar test facility that Chevron has installed to test and evaluate different solar technologies.

Leslie Klinchuch

We're standing on what used to be a former Chevron refinery. It's neat to be able to reuse and repurpose the property for something as exciting as solar energy.

Jerry Lomax, Vice President, Emerging Energy

Brightfield is important because it's a demonstration of new solar panel technologies. Now, I've chosen to work in renewable energy because I think it's the next wave in helping to power the planet.

Tim Veale

We're actually doing the build-out of the final array, and once this array is finished being built out, we'll have all eight arrays completed. To most people, these panels all look the same, but actually they're quite different. The chemical makeup and how they're made make each one unique. And what we're trying to do is evaluate them based upon those differences so that we can realize which ones provide us the most value in the future.

Leslie Klinchuch

Because we want to build more solar projects – and we'll be able to learn what worked best here and use that on other sites.

Jerry Lomax

We will definitely know which panels perform the best across a range of weather conditions. We'll know which ones are durable, and we'll be in a position to understand how to move forward to build arrays that are 25 to 100 times this size.

Leslie Klinchuch

And we're uniquely positioned in that we have the expertise and energy to put projects like this together.

Jerry Lomax

I think this is really one of the world's first demonstrations that marries renewable technologies – renewable solar technologies – with a reuse of an existing industrial location. All the engineers and scientists that we work with are really excited about working on renewable energy.

Leslie Klinchuch

I'm a scientist involved with soil and groundwater, and to get the opportunity to be involved in something like this is really cool for me. Building a solar field is really environmentally friendly; it's a nice, clean technology that you can put on a property. But all along it's been about energy. And the world needs a lot of energy – the demand for energy is really great. So we need the conventional sources, and then we need the new, emerging sources like solar energy.

Jerry Lomax

We've now taken a giant leap forward, having installed the eight best technologies on the planet. We hope that what we learn from Brightfield will be a bridge to a future that includes more renewable energy. We are excited and proud to be part of that journey.