

# CASE STUDY: MONTANTE SOLAR

BUILDING A 6 MW SOLAR ARRAY



## COMPANY

*A solar developer & installer on a mission to spread solar energy across NY state*

The Montante Group began as a real estate company in 1974, focusing primarily on taking underutilized real estate and creating value through creative design and thoughtful programming. Over time, the group expanded to include TM Montante Development, Montante Construction, and the “greenest” branch of the company, Montante Solar. The Montante Group established Montante Solar with the sole mission of expanding solar energy across New York State. Since then, this family-run company has delivered countless customized solar solutions designed for optimal project returns.



# CHALLENGES

## *Revitalizing a Brownfield Site*

A Brownfield Site is a property where redevelopment may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of environmental contaminants. There are currently 57 Brownfield Opportunity Areas in New York State that pose the challenge of creating redevelopment plans with an approach that benefits the community.

In 2020, Montante Solar took on their most challenging project to-date of developing one such area, an old oil farm previously owned and operated by Ashland Oil. The tank farm, designed for oil storage, occupied almost 50% of the site and contained a large aboveground tank as well as a significant amount of infrastructure. Even though above-grade parts of the tank had been removed by the site's previous owner, much subsurface infrastructure still remained on-site in poor condition. The piping was rusted and corroded, resulting in the likelihood of metal contamination in the soil, an old pump system was also found on site that was designed to transfer fluid to and from the oil tank, along with an abandoned transformer bank that contained harmful environmental contaminants, such as hazardous polychlorinated biphenyls.

# SOLUTIONS

Major site work was required to remove & dispose of all legacy infrastructure. Montante Solar worked closely with several stakeholders including the Town of Tonawanda, US Army Corps of Engineers, and NYSERDA to give a new life to this brownfield opportunity area.

# RESULTS

Today, this site boasts a 6MW solar array with smart "tracker racking" technology that moves with the sun throughout the day to increase solar production by roughly 12%. This renewable energy system generates over 8.3 Million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of clean energy annually and will power one of the country's largest industry leaders. The solar array utilizes Game Change's Single Axis Tracker racking, over 15,000 solar panels and 40 inverters.

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WNYSBR has inspired our company to do more community outreach and be a trusted partner to provide accurate and honest information about solar energy.



**Montante's actions and results have been reported within the framework of The WNYSBR's Recognition Program, a continuous improvement program structured to help businesses reach achievable sustainable targets. The program encourages companies to implement a comprehensive sustainability plan. This includes systematic benchmarking, identifying further environmental efficiency opportunities, and quantifying results when improvements are put into place.**

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