Clean energy production must increase rapidly to meet our planet’s ambitious climate goals. We are now at the beginning of an enormous global buildout of renewable energy. But key infrastructure such as onshore wind and large-scale solar installations require a lot of land. Siting renewable energy in areas that support wildlife habitat not only harms nature but also increases the potential for project conflicts that could slow the buildout—a prospect we cannot afford.

Fortunately, there is plenty of previously developed land that can be used to meet our clean energy needs—at least 17 times the amount needed to meet the Paris Agreement goals. Here are six ways that governments, corporations and lenders can promote a clean and green renewable energy buildout.

**PATHWAY 01: GET IN THE ZONE**

Identify areas where renewable energy buildout can be accelerated.

**PATHWAY 02: PLAN AHEAD**

Consider habitat and species in long-term energy planning and purchasing processes.

**PATHWAY 03: SITE RENEWABLES RIGHT**

Develop science-based guidelines for low-impact siting.

**PATHWAY 04: CHOOSE BROWNFIELDS OVER GREENFIELDS**

Facilitate development on former mining lands and industrial sites.

**PATHWAY 05: BUY RENEWABLES RIGHT**

Make corporate commitments to buy low-impact renewable energy to meet clean energy goals.

**PATHWAY 06: RENEWABLE ENERGY FINANCE**

Apply lending performance standards to ensure renewable energy investments are clean and green.

**PUBLIC SECTOR PATHWAYS**

- Incorporate these considerations into long-term electricity resource planning and purchasing processes
- Develop science-based guidelines for low-impact siting
- Incorporate environmental and social equity considerations into performance standards for implementation of guidelines

**PRIVATE SECTOR PATHWAYS**

- Source renewable energy from low-impact areas
- Incentivize or mandate development in low-impact areas
- Reuse land for utility-scale renewable energy projects