



## RCRA Corrective Action

### Cleanup + Productive Use

## Economic Profile

# Denver Federal Center

Denver, Colorado

### BEFORE

Ammunition plant

### AFTER



Government  
Offices



Hospital



Light Rail  
Station

### CLEANUP OVERSEEN BY

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

The Denver Federal Center began as an ammunition manufacturing plant during World War II. After the war ended, the one square mile campus was transformed into office and laboratory space for federal agencies.

The ammunition plant and other activities left behind contamination in soil and groundwater. Cleanup is underway, with oversight by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Over 775,000 tons of waste have been removed from the site, and contaminated groundwater is being treated.

Throughout the cleanup process, the site has continued to serve as a vital center for federal agencies. With nearly 8,000 employees, 28 federal agencies and 44 buildings spread across 623 acres, the Denver Federal Center is an economic engine for the region.



**7,777**

EMPLOYEES



**\$431 million**

ANNUAL SALES



**\$760 million**

ANNUAL WAGES







THE CLEANUP HAS HAD GREAT AND POSITIVE IMPACTS FOR THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOODS. IT HAS BROUGHT LAKEWOOD'S FIRST HOSPITAL TO FRUITION AND CONTINUES TO PROVIDE FOR A VIBRANT LIVE/WORK EXPERIENCE FOR THOSE IN THE AREA.

Adam Paul, Mayor of Lakewood

The Denver Federal Center continues to improve and adapt to suit a wide variety of governmental needs, from office space, to hydraulic research, to the U.S. Geological Service's Ice Core Lab, where glacier samples from around the world are studied and stored. The site's cleanup has also made parts of the site available to be sold for new development. St. Anthony Hospital built a new medical campus on 50 acres that were previously part of the site. Just north of the medical campus, a new light rail station opened in 2013 on another former part of the site.

As the site's manager, the General Services Administration aims to make the Denver Federal Center one of the most environmentally sustainable campuses in the country. The site's three solar fields, as well as solar panels on top of buildings and carpools, meet 22% of the site's electricity needs. A new data facility built for the Department of State has various sustainability features, earning it LEED Gold certification from the U.S Green Building Council. Another of the Center's buildings was retrofitted to make it more sustainable, also earning LEED certification. The Center replaced its fuel-powered vehicles with zero-emission electric vehicles. In addition, the Center reduces stormwater runoff by capturing rainwater and allowing it to soak into the ground.

The successful coordination of cleanup, continued use and redevelopment at the Denver Federal Center serves as a model for other sites and has earned multiple awards, including an EPA National Federal Facility Excellence in Site Reuse award in 2019.



St. Anthony Hospital bought 50 acres of the site and built a new medical campus. Opened in 2011, the hospital has about 1,500 employees, making it one of the largest employers in Lakewood.



In 2013, the new Federal Center light rail station opened on the site, offering an environmentally-friendly option for commuters.

