

# IT'S ALL ABOUT THE GEOLOGIC MAPS

This Infographic showcases key benefits of geologic mapping supported by data.  
**Reference:** Berg, R.C., and Faulds, J.E., eds., 2025, Economic Analysis of the Costs and Benefits of Geological Mapping in the United States of America from 1994 to 2019: Alexandria, Virginia, American Geosciences Institute, 184 p.

## \$4.3 BILLION IN SAVINGS

Using geologic maps to better locate industrial and waste sites could have saved billions in cleanup costs, with potential savings of **\$4.3 billion**.



- Help us **avoid** building in hazardous areas.
- **SAVE billions** in disaster costs and improve public safety.

Source: Chapter 9

HIGH DEMAND (1994-2019)

**7+ MILLION**

**geologic maps** were  
downloaded or sold

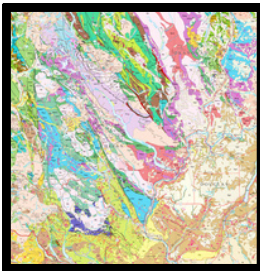


IMAGE CREDIT: USGS

Source: Chapter 7

**\$20.61 BILLION**

**RETURN ON INVESTMENT**



1994-2019: Every dollar invested in geologic mapping returned about **\$7 to \$10** in economic benefits, with a total **investment of \$1.99 billion** fostering **\$20.61 billion in value**.

Source: Chapter 9



**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

Locates natural resources like energy, minerals, water, soil, oil, and gas. Policymakers can use this information to make decisions about resource extraction, sustainability, and conservation.

Source: Chapter 1

## MORE BENEFITS REPORTED



- IDENTIFIES RESOURCES
- PROVIDES REGIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT
- AIDS CONSTRUCTION SAFETY
- SAVES TIME & COST
- AIDS GRANT WRITING
- ASSISTS EXPLORATION PLANNING
- EDUCATES STUDENTS
- HAZARD IDENTIFICATION
- AQUIFER RECHARGE PLANNING
- ASSISTS ENVIRONMENTAL WORK
- COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC
- HELPS REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

Source: Chapter 10

## INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY

Accurate geologic maps support better land use planning by identifying areas prone to natural disasters such as earthquakes, landslides, and floods. They ensure roads, buildings, and bridges are built on stable ground and can withstand environmental conditions.



Source: Chapter 1

## LASTING VALUE



IMAGE CREDIT: USGS

Geologic maps remain **valuable** for decades and can be reused across industries and multiple projects by different people over many years.

Source: Chapter 6