

# EPA's Brownfields and Land Revitalization Programs

*Properties with New Purpose*

## An Overview of Land Revitalization

As part of its mission to protect human health and the environment, EPA is dedicated to revitalizing all types of contaminated land and returning properties to productive reuses. Cleaning up and reusing contaminated properties can protect the environment, reinvigorate communities, jump-start local economies, preserve greenspace and prevent sprawl. EPA supports a range of land reuse decisions that offer the greatest benefit to local communities—from creating public parks and restoring local ecosystems to mixed-use commercial, residential and industrial redevelopment projects.

The Agency's land revitalization efforts emphasize that considering the anticipated property reuse prior to and during assessment and cleanup should be an integral part of site cleanup decisions. This approach ensures that the environmental cleanup for all types of contaminated land, from abandoned industrial facilities to waste disposal sites and former gas stations, leads to property reuse that supports community revitalization goals.

The Agency's land revitalization efforts focus on:

- effective tools to address barriers to land revitalization;
- community involvement to identify local land revitalization goals and decisions;
- sustainable redevelopment approaches and greener cleanups;
- environmental justice and equitable development; and
- strong partnerships through coordination across government and nongovernmental organizations to promote land revitalization.

## EPA's Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields program has been instrumental in furthering land revitalization. The program provides grants and technical assistance to communities, states, tribes and other stakeholders, giving them the resources they need to prevent, assess, safely clean up and sustainably reuse brownfields.

A brownfield is a property where expansion, redevelopment or reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant. It is estimated that there are more than 450,000 brownfields in the United States.



**Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization:**  
(202) 566-2777  
[www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields)

## Other Programs

**Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance:**  
(202) 564-2440  
[www.epa.gov/enforcement/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/enforcement/index.html)

**Superfund Redevelopment Initiative Program:**  
(703) 603-8864  
[www.epa.gov/superfund/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/index.htm)

**Office of Underground Storage Tanks:**  
(703) 603-7164  
[www.epa.gov/OUST/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/OUST/index.htm)

**Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office:**  
(703) 603-0048  
[www.epa.gov/fedfac](http://www.epa.gov/fedfac)

**Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Brownfields Initiative:**  
(703) 308-8399  
[www.epa.gov/compliance/cleanup/rcra/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/compliance/cleanup/rcra/index.html)

**Additional EPA Land Revitalization Contacts**  
[www.epa.gov/landrevitalization/contactus.htm](http://www.epa.gov/landrevitalization/contactus.htm)

## Regional Contacts

Region 1	(617) 918-1424	Region 6	(214) 665-3172
Region 2	(212) 637-3260	Region 7	(800) 223-0425
Region 3	(215) 814-3129	Region 8	(303) 312-7074
Region 4	(404) 562-8789	Region 9	(213) 244-1821
Region 5	(312) 886-7576	Region 10	(206) 553-7299

## Brownfields Grant Application Process

For details on the grant application process, including proposal guidelines and frequently asked questions, please visit: [www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicat.htm](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicat.htm).

## Brownfields Funding

### Assessment Grants

Assessment grants support eligible entities as they inventory, characterize, assess and conduct planning and community involvement related to brownfields. An eligible entity may apply for up to \$200,000 to assess a site contaminated by hazardous substances, pollutants or other contaminants and up to \$200,000 to address a site contaminated by petroleum. Three or more eligible entities may apply together as a coalition to assess a minimum of five sites.



Contaminated soil excavation during remediation phase.

### Cleanup Grants

To carry out cleanup activities at brownfields, an eligible entity may apply for up to \$200,000 per site. Funds may be used to address sites contaminated by petroleum and hazardous substances, pollutants or other contaminants.

### Revolving Loan Fund Grants

An eligible entity may apply for up to \$1 million or coalitions of eligible entities may apply together for up to \$1 million per entity. The fund “revolves” by lending to public and private borrowers in order to finance environmental cleanup activities at brownfields, and then using loan repayments to provide new loans.

### Multi-Purpose Grants

These grants give recipients flexibility in conducting assessment and cleanup activities, and aim to eliminate the delay that may occur when moving from assessment to cleanup if additional funding has not been secured. An eligible entity may apply for up to \$400,000 if it owns the brownfield site.

### Brownfields Area-Wide Planning

These funds are directed to specific areas (such as a neighborhood, downtown district, city block or local commercial corridor) affected by one or more brownfield sites. An eligible entity may

apply for up to \$200,000 to develop an area-wide plan and identify implementation strategies that will facilitate brownfields assessment, cleanup and site reuse, as well as promote area-wide revitalization.



Site demolition, and site development complete.

Photo © Cianbro Corporation.

### Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training

Financial support is available to recruit and train local unemployed residents with the skills needed to secure employment in revitalization activities and the environmental field. An eligible entity may apply for up to \$200,000 to develop a program that provides training and certifications in solid and hazardous waste cleanup, water quality improvement, and environmental health and safety.

### Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities

Organizations can receive funding to provide technical assistance to communities within a zone or geographical area on brownfields related issues.

### Technical Assistance

Organizations can apply for funds for training, research and technical assistance projects that support brownfields revitalization. Periodically, the Brownfields program will solicit applications to support specific training, research and technical assistance projects.

### Targeted Brownfields Assessment

Instead of grant funding, EPA provides direct site assessment assistance for specific sites.

### State and Tribal Response Programs

Financial assistance is available to states and tribes that increase their capacity to oversee and support brownfields projects.