



Brownfields 2004 Grant Fact Sheet

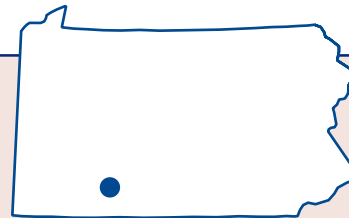
Central City, PA

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, the President signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The Borough of Central City was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. The Dark Shade Watershed in southeastern Pennsylvania encompasses Central City Borough and Shade Township (combined population 4,144), in Somerset County. This small, rural community was, until the 1950s, a boomtown for the coal mining industry. Today its population is almost half of what it was at its peak and the poverty level is staggering. Almost 67 percent of families with a female head of household live below the poverty line. The current unemployment rate for Somerset County is 5.6 percent. Most employed residents must travel outside of Dark Shade Valley for work. The valley is now a



Assessment Grant

**New
2004**

\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the Borough of Central City for a brownfields assessment grant. Grant funds will be used to conduct community outreach, perform two to three site assessments, and develop remediation and reuse plans for selected sites in the Dark Shade Brownfields Project area.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 3 Brownfields Team
215-814-3129

<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/bfs/index.htm>

Grant Recipient: Central City, PA
814-754-8290

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, the activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

nine-mile long linear brownfield area, with acres of mine-scarred, contaminated, barren land, and the worst acid mine drainage pollution in the 468-square-mile Stonycreek Basin. Assessing and cleaning up these contaminated sites will provide safer, cleaner recreational areas and more opportunities for sustainable redevelopment in the region.