

EPA's [Brownfields and Land Revitalization Program](#) invests in communities across the nation, often providing the initial seed money that encourages [brownfields](#) reuse, and **attracts leveraging**. Since 2002, the program has provided communities with [grants and technical assistance](#) that helps them tackle the range of environmental health and economic challenges caused by brownfield properties.

EPA's upfront investments enable communities to **overcome uncertainties** associated with taking the first steps towards brownfield redevelopment. Many critical initial questions — such as whether a property is contaminated, what redevelopment options are both supported by the community and plausible given available resources, and how a property can be cleaned up and safely reused — can be informed using EPA's resources. When these initial questions are answered, investing in redevelopment **becomes less risky**, and potentially more attractive, for other investors.

EPA's resources can assist communities in quantifying and addressing the inherent risks of brownfields redevelopment. When the risks are known or reduced, the **potential return on property investment** most likely will increase. This increased potential return on investment can create opportunities for community revitalization.

Uncertainties Surrounding Brownfields Present Challenges to Communities

Many commercial, industrial and even some residential properties may be environmentally contaminated due to past or current uses at the properties. These brownfields often pose health and safety hazards and can be difficult to reuse — even for properties in attractive locations such as a downtown district, commercial corridor, job center, or along a waterfront.

Across the U.S., municipalities, states and tribes frequently struggle with how to safely address and redevelop the brownfields within their jurisdictions. The uncertainties surrounding whether — and to what degree — environmental contamination exists on a property contribute to disinvestment and blighted conditions. These brownfield conditions add stress to the local economy, environment, and social well-being.



ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

The health and safety of people and animals can be at risk if a property presents exposure to environmental contaminants. If not addressed, contamination can spread to nearby properties as well.



ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

When property owners and potential investors suspect a property is contaminated, they may fear they will be held liable for past contamination. This concern may discourage prospective owners and investors from investing in brownfields, until additional information on property characteristics and potential contamination is known. Until a brownfield is properly characterized, it may be passed over for redevelopment.



SOCIAL CHALLENGES

Over time, a neglected property may become an eyesore, contributing to neighborhood blight and social decline. Blighted properties can weaken local real estate markets, add stress to community social ties, and make it difficult for the community to attract needed services and investment.

With EPA's help, communities can begin to address the economic, social and environmental challenges caused by brownfields and reposition these properties for investment and revitalization.



Empowering Communities with Resources

We help communities by

Sharing solutions to common challenges.

Our program enables communities to smartly and confidently tackle brownfields revitalization. We educate communities on the contaminated site redevelopment process and provide [technical assistance](#) through experience and expertise from EPA staff, contractors and grantees.

Our program also clarifies [environmental liability defenses](#) (exemptions and protections) for brownfield site owners, potential owners and lenders to further assist them with understanding their brownfields challenges.

Eliminating uncertainty around contamination concerns.

Our grants and technical assistance give communities the answers they need to determine whether a brownfield is contaminated and, if so, what is the extent of the contamination.

Cleaning up contaminated properties.

Our [funding to states and tribes](#) enables them to oversee cleanup activities, determine [risk-based cleanup](#) levels and then certify property cleanups within their jurisdiction.

Our grants give communities that own a brownfield the ability to clean up contaminants on the site and align the cleanup requirements with site reuse.

Preparing job seekers for the brownfields labor market.

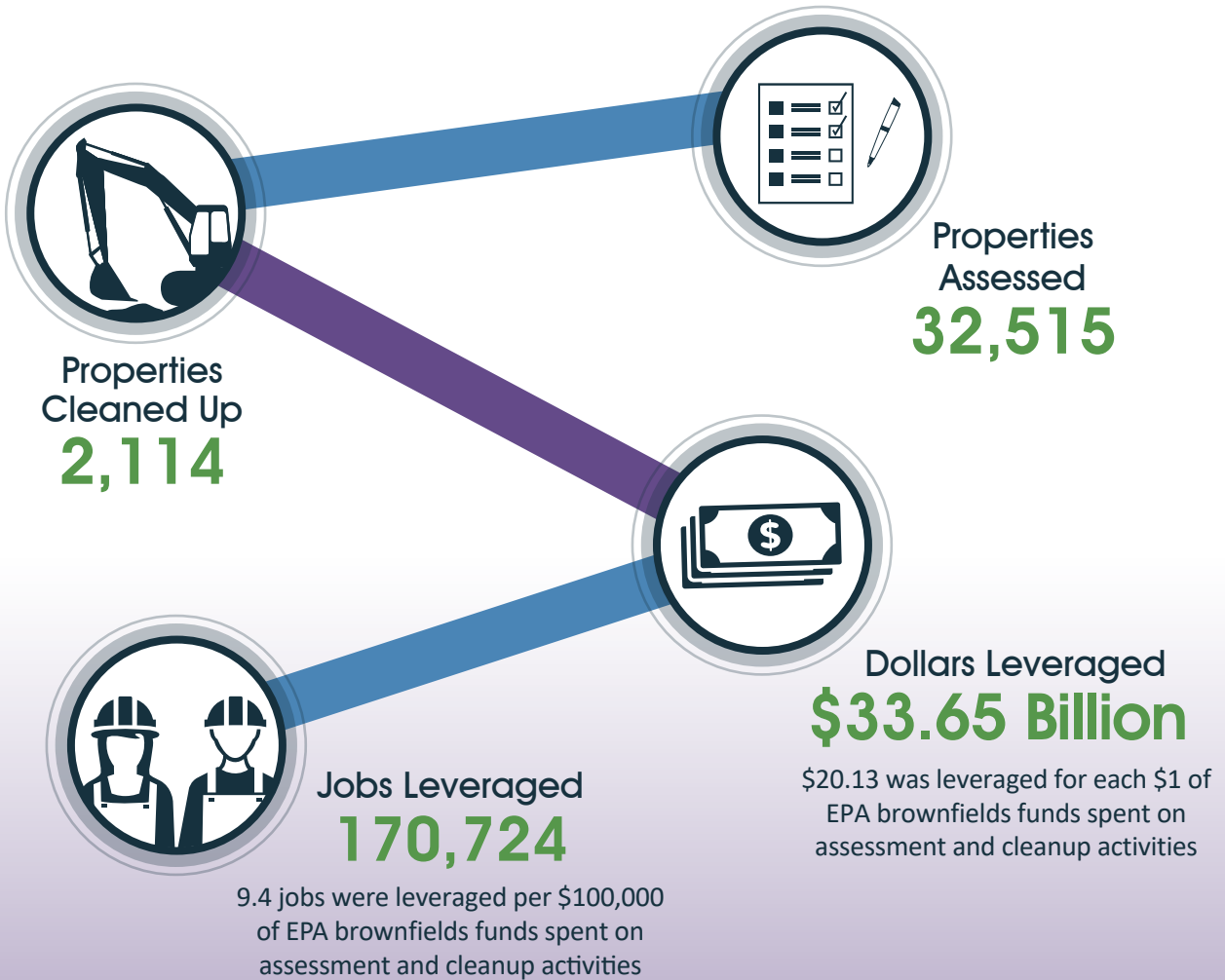
Our grants fund critical training programs for unemployed and underemployed job seekers. Graduates earn sought-after environmental and safety certifications and are able to access environmental jobs while helping communities with brownfields meet the demand for skilled labor.

Removing barriers to safe and sustainable property reuse.

Our grants and technical assistance support long-term land revitalization through brownfields reuse planning and redevelopment strategies that protect the integrity of the cleanup.

Our Program Accomplishments

As of October 2020



Our Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Program Gets Results!



17,855

Students trained in environmental/brownfields related jobs



13,294

Placed in full-time employment



\$14.50

Average Wage Earned



74%

Placement Rate

Brownfields Reuse Benefits Local Communities



5-15.2%
% Increase in Residential Property Values



\$29-97M
Additional Tax Revenue



73-80%
% Decrease in Impervious Surfaces



25-33%
% Decrease in Jobs-Related Vehicle Miles Traveled



9-10%
% Decrease in Residential Vehicle Miles Traveled

Sources: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-program-environmental-and-economic-benefits>

11-13%

of expected jobs and housing growth can be accommodated on brownfield sites

Brownfields Can Accommodate Expected Jobs/Housing Growth

FINDING: A study completed for EPA in 2020 looked at brownfield redevelopment opportunities in 50 metro areas. The study found 11-13 % of the jobs and housing growth expected between 2013-2030 could be supported on brownfield sites.

Learn More About Our Program

Check out our website at:
<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/understanding-brownfields>

Get in touch with the brownfields and land revitalization program near you
 (EPA [Regions](#) or [Headquarters](#))

Location, Location, Location!

FINDING: Brownfields in metro areas are often “location-efficient” due to their central location and connections to existing infrastructure.

- Typically, brownfields are **centrally located** in metro areas with **good connections to local infrastructure**, including roadways and stormwater utilities.
- The ability to **reuse existing infrastructure** is an important advantage to brownfields redevelopment. This reduces expenses and prevents further environmental degradation, as new infrastructure to support development would not be needed.
- Brownfields are often **near other metro services and amenities**, such as job centers, shopping, schools, health centers, transit and housing.
- Often, individuals drive less when living or working in a metro area because they have many **choices for transportation** (such as walking, biking, bus, train, ride share, etc). When individuals drive less, their cars emit less air pollutants – which makes a big difference to our environment!