EPA’s Brownfields and Land Revitalization Program

Previously Used Properties with New Purpose
Land Revitalization at EPA

Cleaning up and reusing contaminated properties improves and protects the environment while helping to reinvigorate communities, jump-start local economies, preserve greenspace and prevent sprawl.

As part of our mission to protect human health and the environment, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is dedicated to revitalizing all types of contaminated land and returning properties to productive reuses.

Our land revitalization approach considers the anticipated property reuse prior to and during site assessment and cleanup, which ensures that the environmental cleanup for all types of contaminated land (e.g., abandoned industrial facilities, waste disposal sites, former gas stations) leads to property reuse that supports community revitalization goals.

EPA’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 resources they need to prevent, assess, safely clean up and sustainably reuse brownfield sites.

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 brownfield sites in the United States.
Brownfields Resources

Assessment Grants
Assessment Grants support eligible entities as they inventory, characterize, assess and conduct planning (e.g., area-wide planning, remediation planning and reuse planning) and community involvement related to brownfield sites. An eligible entity may apply for up to $300,000 to assess sites contaminated by hazardous substances, pollutants, other contaminants or petroleum. Three or more eligible entities may apply together as a coalition to assess a minimum of five sites for up to $600,000.

Cleanup Grants
Cleanup Grants provide funding to carry out cleanup activities at one or more brownfield sites. An eligible entity must own the site at the time of application and may apply for up to $500,000 per application. Funds may be used to address sites contaminated by hazardous substances, petroleum, pollutants or other contaminants.

Revolving Loan Fund Grants
An eligible entity, or a coalition of two or more entities, may apply for a Revolving Loan Fund Grant for up to $1 million. The fund “revolves” when entities lend funds to public and private borrowers to finance environmental cleanup activities at brownfield sites, and then use loan repayments and interest to provide new loans.

Multipurpose Grants
Multipurpose Grants provide funding to eligible entities to carry out a range of eligible activities, including inventory, characterization and assessment of brownfield sites; community involvement related to brownfields; cleanup activities on brownfield sites owned by the applicant; and development of reuse plans and/or an overall plan for revitalization. An eligible entity may apply for up to $800,000 to address brownfield sites in a specified target area.

Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants
Funding is available to recruit and train local unemployed and underemployed residents of brownfield-impacted communities with the skills needed to secure employment in 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/or environmental health and safety.

Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities (TAB) Grants
Eligible organizations can receive funding to provide technical assistance on brownfield-related issues to communities within a specified zone or geographical area.

Technical Assistance
Periodically, the Brownfields Program will solicit applications to support specific training, research and technical assistance projects. Technical assistance providers apply for these funds, and communities then apply to receive the assistance and training that meet their project needs.

Targeted Brownfields Assessment
EPA provides direct site assessment assistance for specific sites where assessment helps move the site forward toward redevelopment—often for a public purpose.

State and Tribal Response Programs
Financial assistance is available to states and tribes to establish and enhance their response program, including their capacity to oversee and support brownfield projects.

Proposal Guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions
For details on the grant application process, please visit www.epa.gov/brownfields.
Regional Contacts
Region 1 | www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-1-new-england
Region 2 | www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-2
Region 3 | www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-3-mid-atlantic
Region 4 | www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-epa-region-4-southeast
Region 5 | www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-5
Region 6 | www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-6-south-central
Region 7 | www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-7-midwest
Region 8 | www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-8-mountains-and-plains
Region 9 | www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-9-pacific-southwest
Region 10 | www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-10-pacific-northwest

Other Programs
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance: www.epa.gov/enforcement
Superfund Redevelopment Initiative Program: www.epa.gov/superfund
Office of Underground Storage Tanks: www.epa.gov/ust
Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office: www.epa.gov/fedfac
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Brownfields Initiative: www.epa.gov/rcra