Nevada: Early EPA Investments Generate Opportunities

EPA’s Brownfields & Land Revitalization Program provides grants and technical assistance to safely clean up and sustainably reuse contaminated properties. These blighted properties, known as “brownfields,” often lie within historically underserved communities confronting long-term disinvestment. To address brownfields, EPA’s seed funding and early engagement supports community involvement, environmental assessments, redevelopment planning, property cleanup and job training. We partner with local entities to generate momentum for lasting improvements in public health and the environment and to support new economic opportunities for disadvantaged communities.

BUILDING COMMUNITY, EQUITY AND THE FUTURE

EPA has partnered with communities in Nevada since 1998, providing more than $27 million to support cleanup and reuse of underutilized properties—leading to new civic investments, affordable housing, and Main Street redevelopment. EPA’s early brownfields investments have leveraged nearly $300 million in public and private redevelopment financing in Nevada.

CIVIC BUILDINGS

Environmental assessment kicks off sports facility

HENDERSON—The City of Henderson transformed its Downtown Water Street District by replacing the dated Henderson Convention Center with the new Lifeguard Arena. Funding from EPA was used to assess the former convention center prior to demolition. The new $25 million facility, funded through a public-private partnership with the Vegas Golden Knights Hockey Club, has been a catalyst for business investment and social activity in Henderson’s burgeoning downtown area.

- The $25 million facility was funded through a public-private partnership.
- The Vegas Golden Knights Hockey Club, youth hockey leagues, figure skaters, and the public all use the arena.
- The facility includes a restaurant, retail outlets and meeting space.

“This is a game changer for Water Street. Not only are we seeing a huge economic investment in the area because of this facility, but this facility will bring a lot of activity and programming to families in our community.”

—Debra March, Henderson Mayor
AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Asbestos removal for a safe, high-quality renovation

ELY—EPA works with local housing authorities and other partners to increase the availability of affordable housing through brownfields reuse. In Ely, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection used $200,000 in EPA funding to help prepare the Bristlecone Apartment Complex for safe renovation by removing asbestos from the building. Once the property was deemed safe, the Nevada Rural Housing Authority transformed it into high-quality affordable housing.

- The $10.5 million project was funded by public and private partners.
- The apartment complex has new playgrounds, gardens, a dog park and a community building with a fitness room, library, and computer lab.
- This project helps meet the state’s affordable housing goals.

“As a result of our efforts, the work of an excellent general contractor, and the infusion of funding from federal, state, and private resources, this valuable housing and its rental subsidies will be preserved for another 50 years. 68 low-income Ely households will continue to have quality housing they can afford and that they can be proud to call home for years to come.”

—William Brewer, NRHA’s Executive Director

MAIN STREET REVITALIZATION

Residents envision new life for an old downtown

LOVELOCK—EPA partnered with the Western Nevada Development District and communities such as Lovelock to revitalize historic downtowns. Many small, downtown “Main Streets,” such as Lovelock’s, are dotted with abandoned gas stations and vacant buildings. The city is using EPA grant funds to develop a community vision for creatively reusing brownfields to meet the needs of a changing economy. Goals for the project include:

- Ensuring a locally driven process tailored to community needs and desires.
- Adaptive reuse of treasured historic properties.
- Preparing for modern upgrades, such as electric vehicle charging stations and high-speed mobile broadband.

“With EPA funding, we were able to create an online Virtual Visioning Walking Tour and interactive response form to get substantive community feedback.”

—Heidi Lusby-Angvick, Executive Director, Pershing County Economic Development Authority

For more information on EPA’s Brownfield program, visit:
EPA Brownfields | EPA Brownfields and Land Revitalization in the Pacific Southwest