

## DESCRIPTION

EPA defines brownfields as abandoned, idled or under-used industrial and commercial properties where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived contamination.

EPA launched the Brownfields Action Agenda in 1995 as a comprehensive approach to achieve environmental cleanup and economic redevelopment of these sites. The Action Agenda has empowered states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. EPA identified and addressed barriers created by regulations, guidance, and administrative practices, and recommended swift, aggressive measures for change within the context of the existing Superfund law. EPA accomplished all of its commitments under the Action Agenda, including the development of pilot project policies clarifying liability, job training and development, federal/local partnerships, and outreach.

The Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots are a key component of brownfields. They are intended to provide EPA, states, Native American tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment. Hundreds of Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots have been awarded under the EPA Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative. Today, these pilots are revitalizing neighborhoods and creating jobs as brownfield properties are redeveloped.

After meeting the original goals set forth in the 1995 Action Agenda, EPA expanded its efforts and, in 1997, announced the Brownfields National Partnership Action Agenda. A major goal of this Agenda is to coordinate future work on brownfields with 15 other Federal departments. The EPA Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative has been expanded to represent a new generation of partnerships between the Federal government and local communities. The Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act, passed early in 2002, codified the national Brownfields agenda.

## USING THE RESOURCE

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Brownfields projects bring together diverse groups from the community, such as residents, business and property owners, developers, planning commissioners, lenders, and environmentalists. To encourage community involvement, pilot recipients have organized speaking engagements with professional, political, and community groups; sponsored conferences, discussion forums, and workshops; collaborated with local community colleges to hire interns to help with public participation activities; developed Internet Web pages; established hotlines; and produced local cable television programs.

CIC participation in brownfields pilots can take many forms. In general, CICs collaborate with Regional Brownfields Coordinators and other brownfields team members on a plan to make the best use of available personnel. Depending on your level of involvement, as an EPA representative, you may have to respond to questions about regulatory requirements, insurance, liability, extent of contamination, and condition of the property.

### BROWNFIELDS PILOTS AND APPLICATION PROCESS

Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots are awarded periodically throughout the year. Application deadlines are announced when award dates are determined and are published in the *Federal Register*.

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# BROWNfields

[See Other EPA Programs, Tab 27; Internet, Tab 10](#)



States, political subdivisions of states, such as cities and counties, and tribes are eligible to apply for pilot grants. Applicants are required to submit applications using *The Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative: Application Guidelines for Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots* (October 96-EPA 500-F-96-067). Additional information regarding the applications may be obtained by calling the **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)**/Superfund Hotline at (800) 424-9346 or (703) 412-9810 or querying EPA's Brownfields home page on the **Internet**: [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

## Tips

- Only states, political subdivisions of states, and tribes are eligible to apply for pilot grants. Other types of assistance are available for non-profit organizations and community members.
- In addition to EPA, 15 other Federal departments are providing new resources and coordinating their activities with the brownfields program through the Brownfields National Partnership Action Agenda.
- As a CIC you might serve as a facilitator of, or EPA representative in, community partnerships. Your expertise may be needed to help guide stakeholder decisions about sites.

## RELATED TOOLS IN THE TOOLKIT

- [Community Involvement Plans, Tab 7](#)
- [Community Profile, Tab 8](#)
- [Cross-Cultural Communications, Tab 12](#)
- [Fact Sheets, Tab 15](#)
- [Federal Agencies, Tab 16](#)
- [Local Resources, Tab 22](#)
- [Other EPA Programs, Tab 27](#)
- [Partnering, Tab 28](#)
- [Presentations, Tab 29](#)
- [Public Availabilities, Tab 30](#)
- [Public Meetings, Tab 32](#)

## OUTSIDE SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- EPA Brownfields home page: [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields)