



Next Generation Brownfields Initiative

As the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfields Program celebrates its 20th year in 2015, EPA is ready to work in collaboration with its partners to launch the *Next Generation Brownfields Initiative*. In 2015, EPA convened a group of brownfields stakeholders from state and local governments, community groups, nonprofits, academia, the private sector, and philanthropy to identify issues and challenges affecting communities impacted by brownfields. This effort culminated in the April 16, 2015, Forum for Action, which brought together leading organizations and stakeholders to help EPA develop an agenda for action that will foster the next generation of brownfields and community revitalization. At the 2015 National Brownfields Training Conference in Chicago, Mathy Stanislaus, EPA's Assistant Administrator for the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER), announced that EPA will move forward with the *Next Generation Brownfields Initiative*, which includes the following elements:

- **CLIMATE SMART BROWNFIELDS:** EPA will promote brownfields revitalization in ways that address a changing climate and help communities become more climate resilient. EPA will promote brownfield approaches that use green infrastructure, urban forestry, community agriculture, smart growth, and transit-oriented development. EPA's Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization (OBLR) will:
 - Foster stakeholder engagement and collaboration on strategies for addressing climate change among several EPA program offices, including OBLR, the Office of Sustainable Communities (which includes EPA's smart growth initiatives), the Office of Water, and the Office of Air and Radiation; other federal agencies engaged in climate mitigation and resiliency; nonprofit organizations working on these issues; brownfield grantees; and other stakeholder groups.
 - Develop and issue a *Resource Guide for Climate Smart Brownfields* that provides valuable background information, case studies and best practices, and a robust guide to resources and tools that can help develop and implement climate smart brownfield strategies.
 - Offer technical assistance to help brownfields grantees incorporate climate smart elements into their brownfields projects using a variety of mechanisms, including educational webinars, resource guides, and assistance through Technical Assistance for Brownfields grantees.
- **NEXT GENERATION MANUFACTURING ON BROWNFIELDS:** Many brownfields are the result of the industrial legacy of contamination from past manufacturing, but brownfields also provide an excellent opportunity to establish new, advanced manufacturing and maker-movement businesses on former brownfield sites. To promote next generation manufacturing on brownfields, OBLR will:
 - Work with other EPA program offices to create the "Manufacturing One Stop" to provide coordinated, streamlined regulatory assistance for the development of manufacturing projects on brownfields.
 - Provide support for brownfields assessment and cleanup activities and manufacturing redevelopment projects, including assistance through the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) and the Economy—Energy—Environment (E3) initiative.
 - Produce a *Toolkit for Manufacturing Innovation on Brownfields* to showcase strategies, case studies, and best practices for redeveloping brownfields with new advanced manufacturing and maker-movement investments.

- **LEVERAGING RESOURCES BEYOND THE EPA BROWNFIELDS GRANT:** EPA seeks to help localities leverage resources beyond brownfields assessment or cleanup grant funding to assist with demolition, site preparation, infrastructure upgrades, and design. OBLR will:
 - Issue a revised *2015 Brownfield Federal Programs Guide* with information on resources available from more than 20 federal agencies and federal tax credits and incentives that can support brownfield revitalization.
 - Develop a new *Guide to Leveraging Resources for Brownfields Revitalization* with information on how to develop effective resource strategies for leveraging funding for brownfields revitalization.
 - Host a *Meet the Funders Webinar Series* that brings together brownfields grantees and representatives from key federal agencies, philanthropic foundations, and nonprofit organizations to explore ways to enhance leveraging of resources for local brownfields revitalization efforts.

- **PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION, PARTICULARLY IN COMMUNITIES WITH WEAK MARKETS:** Distressed, small, disadvantaged communities in particular often lack the capacity to catalyze economic development and revitalize brownfields. EPA will continue its commitment to supporting brownfields revitalization in small, rural, underserved and struggling communities with brownfield grants, a focus on ensuring environmental justice, area-wide planning support, and robust technical assistance through EPA's network of Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) service providers.

- **BUILDING THE FEDERAL FAMILY OF BROWNFIELDS AGENCIES:** EPA will renew its commitment to collaborate with other federal agencies, which is one of the most important hallmarks of the national Brownfields program. EPA will work on community and economic development issues with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Economic Development Administration, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development program. EPA will foster infrastructure investments for brownfields revitalization with the U.S. Department of Transportation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other agencies. EPA will promote green strategies and climate smart brownfields with the U.S. Department of Interior, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Department of Energy. EPA will seek other opportunities to support community revitalization efforts by collaborating with a wide range of federal programs and offices at both the headquarters and regional levels.

*For more information on EPA's Next Generation Brownfields initiative, contact
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