



Brownfields 2009 Assessment Grant Fact Sheet

Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. In 2002, the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act was passed to help states and communities around the country cleanup and revitalize brownfields sites. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) was selected to receive two brownfields assessment grants. Located about 30 miles west of Boston, the CMRPC serves 40 communities (combined population 482,436) in a 960-square-mile region of central Massachusetts. By the early 1900s, industrial sites were located along all the rivers of southern Worcester County. At one point, at least 1,100 mills and factories dotted the landscape. Years of discharging dyes, metals, varnish, and solvents have scarred the region. The CMRPC region contains nearly 2,500 hazardous substances and petroleum release sites, 900 of which are potential brownfields. All known brownfield sites are located less than five miles from major rivers. Between 2001 and 2006, the target area experienced a 16 percent decrease in manufacturing jobs. Brownfield assessments will identify properties that pose threats to human health and the environment. Assessments also are expected to be the first step in reclaiming the region's former industrial core and transforming it into mixed-use developments.

Assessment Grants

\$200,000 for hazardous substances
\$200,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission for two brownfields assessment grants. Community-wide hazardous substances grant funds will be used to conduct 10 Phase I and 3 Phase II environmental site assessments, focusing on sites located in southern Worcester County. Grant funds also will be used to conduct cleanup planning and support community outreach activities. Petroleum funds will be used to perform the same tasks at sites with potential petroleum contamination.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields Web site (<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>).

EPA Region 1 Brownfields Team
(617) 918-1424

EPA Region 1 Brownfields Web site
(<http://www.epa.gov/region1/brownfields>)

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(508) 459-3316

The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.