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ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Housing and the Arts: Lakewood, Colorado

The City of Lakewood used a \$400,000 assessment grant from the EPA to assess brownfields and conduct area-wide planning that helped explore developing an arts district in Lakewood. The EPA also provided a \$189,000 Cleanup Grant that was used to address soil contamination on a property in the arts district which helped Metrowest Housing, a housing authority, move forward with developing affordable housing along the light rail at Lamar station. The new housing development at Lamar Street Station includes an artist in residency program and also contains a variety of features that make it a leader in advancing sustainability such as energy efficient windows, a solar array, and energy efficient appliances. The backdrop to this article is the colorful mural by Bobby MaGee Lopez called "Hear the Rail a Hummin" which welcomes visitors to Lamar.

Sugar Beet Factory to Rail Park: Eaton, Colorado

In February 2010, the Town of Eaton, CO, (pop. 2,690) acquired a 43-acre sugar beet mill with the dual goal of protecting its citizens from the numerous hazards posed by the long vacant facility and putting this large downtown property back into productive use. The site was assessed in 2009 using Brownfields EPA Recovery Act funds to conduct pre (Phase I) and post (Phase II) acquisition. Targeted Brownfields Assessments (TBAs) revealed the presence of asbestos containing materials and friable asbestos in the mill itself as well as in the surrounding soils. Approximately 138,000 sq. ft. of asbestos-containing material was identified inside the site while approximately 5,000 cubic yards of asbestos-containing material or soils was identified elsewhere on the site. Upon referral from the Brownfields Project Manager, the Emergency Response Unit determined a removal action was warranted in 2011. After the EPA completed removal action in the spring of 2013, the town of Eaton demolished the building. On July 17th the Eaton Industrial Rail Park celebrated its grand opening. In 2011, the EPA created a [fact sheet](#) about beet factories in Colorado.

The Garden Kitchen: South Tucson, Arizona

The Garden Kitchen is a seed-to-table health education program that demonstrates how to grow, buy, store and cook nutritious food. The kitchen, which opened in fall 2012, was created as a partnership among the University of Arizona College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, UA Pima County Cooperative Extension, the City of South Tucson and Pima County.



The Garden Kitchen sprang from a shuttered Mexican restaurant with a dilapidated home in the back. Hells Angels were interested in the property and were attempting to purchase it for a clubhouse. The City of South Tucson stepped in, however, and used their US EPA Brownfield Communitywide Assessment grant to conduct an environmental assessment, after which the county purchased it and then established the Garden Kitchen.



RECENTLY AWARDED GRANTEES IN THE NEWS

Solano County Water Receives Funding to Assess Abandoned Mines

The Solano County Water Agency will receive \$467,000 in EPA assessment grant funds to assess contamination from abandoned mines in Lake, Napa, Solano, and Yolo counties, California. The EPA's role is best summed up by Jared Blumenfeld, Regional Administrator for Pacific Southwest, "EPA is committed to helping communities strengthen their local economy by cleaning up abandoned industrial and commercial properties – places where environmental cleanups and new jobs are needed most."



Courtesy of deainc.

Landfill to Buddhist Meditation Center: Portland, Oregon

The Northwest Zen Sangha, a nonprofit organization also known as the Dharma Rain Zen Center, will receive a \$200,000 cleanup grant to help finish the site cleanup. Like many brownfield projects, this project will help restore wildlife habitats by preserving areas above the former landfill for green space. Also, [read](#) about how contaminated ground water is being sustainably filtered through the innovative use of mushrooms.

RichmondBUILD: Providing Training for Jobs in Renewable Energy

From the city of Richmond, California, RichmondBUILD is a public-private partnership that places low income prospects in high growth, high wage construction and renewable energy fields. They received a \$192,300 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to place graduates in green jobs by providing job training. Their wildly successful program works over 80% of its graduates in jobs with an average starting wage of \$18.33 per hour. RichmondBUILD students will be training to work on the Solar One Project which is a 60 acre 12 megawatt solar farm on the Chevron Richmond Refinery property.

Helping Underemployed Residents Get Environmental Jobs: Fresno, California

The Fresno Workforce Investment Board received \$193,000 to train prospective employees in solid waste management, wastewater treatment and integrated pest management jobs. Graduates have the opportunity to earn UCLA's recycling and solid waste management certificate, California wastewater treatment certificate, or California pest control advisor license. A list of all the Environmental Workforce and Job Training grant awards for 2015 can be found [here](#).

Lodi, California Receives Assessment Grant

Lodi, California received a \$400,000 grant to assess properties for cleanup in the industrial section of the city. The grant will be used in five of the city's most economically distressed neighborhoods. The town of Lodi hopes to revitalize its downtown area through urban infill of vacant industrial plots.

New Montana Brownfields Grants

Region 8 Administrator Shaun McGrath announced new grants for Great Falls Development Authority, Sweetgrass Development and the city of Missoula. All three were awarded competitive assessment grants of \$400,000 to test sites for contaminants. These projects in Montana are prime examples of the importance of these grants to revitalizing communities and cities across the nation. "By coming in here and cleaning these sites up, it's starting to attract opportunities for economic development back into the heart of these cities," McGrath said. McGrath is pictured right in Montana.



Courtesy of Tom Bauer: Missoula

Bipartisan Senators Plan Reauthorization of Brownfields Cleanup Program

On June 2nd Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) introduced a bill to the Committee on Environment and Public Works to reauthorize the EPA's brownfields cleanup program. The program wouldn't change the \$250 million per year funding of Brownfields, but would boost the limit for a cleanup grant to \$500,000 per site, provide multipurpose grants of up to \$950,000 and would create a revolving loan fund to help build renewable energy projects at brownfield sites. To track the bill's progress go [here](#).

ASSISTANCE & TRAINING

EPA Releases Technical Guides to Support Vapor Intrusion Assessment and Mitigation Activities

The Technical Guide for Assessing and Mitigating the Vapor Intrusion Pathway from Subsurface Vapor Sources to Indoor Air was released in June and applies to all sites being evaluated for vapor intrusion under federal land cleanup statutes by the EPA, other federal agencies, state and tribal governments and brownfield grantees. The Technical Guide for Addressing Petroleum Vapor Intrusion at Leaking Underground Storage Tank Sites was also released in June.

New Tribal Green Building Kit Just Released!

A new EPA publication, the Tribal Green Building Toolkit provides information on how tribes and other communities can prioritize and implement green building codes, policies and practices. This toolkit summarizes priorities identified by the Tribal Green Building Codes Workgroup, a group of tribal and federal leaders working to advance tribal green building.

Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities Workshop

Check out this upcoming workshop put on by Kansas State University, one of EPA's TAB grantees:
*Removing Obstacles to Redeveloping your Downtown
Green River, Wyoming
August 13th*

There are also many online workshops about how you can "green" your brownfields property. Check them out [here](#).

2015 ACRES Accomplishments

212 assessments, **35** cleanups, **\$171** million leveraged, **817** jobs leveraged, and **203** Acres ready for reuse.

Way to go Western Region Grantees and TBA Recipients!

2015 ACRES Trainings

Make sure to keep reporting all of the hard work you are doing in ACRES. Two training webinar training sessions are coming up:

August 11, 2015, at 12pm MT (Advanced Class)
September 8, 2015 at 12pm MT (Beginner Class)

2015 NATIONAL BROWNFIELDS CONFERENCE

September 2-4, Chicago, Illinois. At Hilton Chicago. Register Now.

EPA Regional Open House

Save the date and please join your region at the **Regional Open House** in Chicago on Tuesday, **September 1 from 4:00-5:30 pm** at the **Palmer House Hilton Hotel**. The Open House will provide an informal venue for conference attendees to meet and talk with their region's EPA Senior Management and regional staff, and to promote networking and information sharing among all participants.

Brownfields Preconference Trainings and Workshops

The Nuts and Bolts of Federal Financing Opportunities for Brownfields Cleanup and Redevelopment (002) September 1, 8:30-3pm
Learn best strategies for writing a stellar assessment, cleanup, area wide, and RLF grant proposal, how to package and leverage other federal resources, and examples of using tax incentives and credits.

Financing, Leveraging and Real Estate Basics for Brownfields Cleanup and Redevelopment (003) September 1, 8:30-3pm
Discover the many other resources besides the federal government for community redevelopment efforts. Other options include: state and local financing tools like tax increment financing, tax-exempt bonds and grants; approaches for tapping into non-traditional source of project financing; and inside information about the art of brownfields real estate making.

Equitable Development Workshop (004) September 1, 9-3am

This workshop is designed to give participants practical tools, learning from practitioners working at the cutting edge of connecting low income and minority populations to opportunities and the beneficial socioeconomic outcomes of sustainable brownfields redevelopment.

Can't Miss Brownfield Sessions: (All conference sessions):**From Brown to Green in the Wild West**

September 2, 2015, 2:45-4:00 pm: Through a question and answer find out how green infrastructure can play a central role in revitalization with multiple benefits including increased density and great common areas.

Marketing Brownfields - Creative Marketing and Public Participation

September 4, 2015, 9:45-11:00 am: This session will highlight three western communities working to generate interest in brownfields (as well as developer investment) through creative marketing and public participation efforts. In **Cheyenne, Wyoming**, the use of an interactive social media platform engaged the public, and a 3-D model inspired a project video to explain the complexities of brownfields redevelopment.

Advanced Urban Redevelopment in Rural America

September 2, 2015, 2:45-4:00pm: Kalispell, Montana may only have 20,000 people, but they have a big vision for their community. Down to only two rail users, Kalispell is strangled by the tracks. Come to the session and learn about how Kalispell is addressing brownfields, developing a rail park, working to remove railroad tracks through town and more to make a big difference in a small community!

Revolving Loan Fund Town Hall Meeting

September 4, 2015, 9:45-11:00 am: For any entity with a Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program, attending this session is a must. This session will focus on EPA's revolving loan fund program including strategies for the overall management of an RLF, building a team, successful marketing strategies, revolving the grant to generate program income and management of program income.

Building a Sustainable Arts District

September 3, 2015, 10:15-11:30 am: What happens when community leaders, business interests, local government, affordable housing developers, a new light rail line, and the EPA collide? In Lakewood, Colorado, it has catalyzed the new 40 West Arts Creative District and a fantastic LEED ND certified mixed-income housing community, located in the heart of the new arts district.

Working Toward a Sustainable Future

September 3, 2015, 12:45-2:00 pm: The world of renewable energy is in a dynamic state. Reductions in the costs of solar are changing the marketplace in significant ways, as are innovations such as anaerobic digestion (AD). This session will bring together experts in renewable energy to demystify emerging technologies and bring participants up to date on how wind, solar, AD, and biomass can work individually or as partners on brownfields to produce clean, efficient, and renewable energy.

Let's Talk About Layer Cake: Leveraging Resources to Make a Visible Difference in Communities

September 3, 2015, 2:15-3:30 pm: Join this roundtable as Region 8 and Great Falls Development will discuss tried and true, as well as innovative, approaches to leveraging resources to maximize economic, environmental and social objectives and ultimately create new local delicacies.

Don't miss out on these workshops that will teach you how to best use your resources to make the most out of your grant!



2015 TRIBAL LANDS AND ENVIRONMENT FORUM

The 2015 Tribal Lands and Environment Forum (TLEF) will take place in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, **August 17-20, 2015**. Once again, the forum will feature special trainings, field trips, and breakout sessions focused on solid/hazardous waste management, brownfields, UST/LUSTs, Superfund sites, and emergency response.

Visit the TLEF [website](#) where you can register for the forum, submit proposals for breakout sessions, and access the hotel reservation website.

Forum Agenda:

Monday, August 17th - There are 13 sessions to choose from on Monday, including two field trips, some certification based trainings and a one-on-one opportunity for data management, as well as other trainings. Please note that all of the Monday sessions REQUIRE that you sign up ahead of time and many sessions are capped at 25. To register for one of the Monday sessions please email [Todd Barnell](mailto:Todd.Barnell@nau.edu) at Todd.Barnell@nau.edu.

Tuesday, August 18th - This day will begin with a two hour plenary session, followed by a 90 minute period of concurrent breakout sessions covering solid waste, brownfields, Superfund, USTs, cross media issues, and tribal water programs. The afternoon will be given over to two 90 minute breakout session periods as well. There will be an optional field trip to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Composting Facility. This field trip will be capped at 29 and requires that you sign up ahead of time.

Wednesday, August 19th: This day will feature multiple breakout sessions in the morning and afternoon as well as an optional field trip opportunity to an Underground Storage Tank site.

Thursday, August 20th: Breakout sessions and a special meeting of the Tribal Superfund Working Group will take place in the morning. This will be followed by a closing session and a luncheon. There will be an optional field trip to a Superfund Site in the afternoon. You must sign up ahead of time for this field trip.

** If you are interested in signing up for a field trip, email [Todd Barnell](mailto:Todd.Barnell@nau.edu) at Todd.Barnell@nau.edu and let him know which one you would like to attend.

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(send an email to add or remove your name from our email list)

[Region 8 Website](#)

[Region 9 Website](#)

[Region 10 Website](#)

