

Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Pilot Project Fact Sheet



Aurora, CO

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 clean up and revitalize brownfields sites. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants to assess and clean up brownfield sites.

Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Pilot Program

EPA is piloting an area-wide planning approach to community brownfield challenges, which recognizes that revitalization of the area surrounding the brownfield site(s) is just as critical to the successful reuse of the property as assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment of an individual site. The pilot program will help further community-based partnership efforts within underserved or economically disadvantaged neighborhoods by confronting local environmental and public health challenges related to brownfields, while creating a planning framework to advance economic development and job creation.

Pilot Project Description

EPA has selected the City of Aurora as a Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Pilot Program recipient. The city will focus on the western half of the Montview Corridor in northwest Aurora, which is home to approximately 6,000 residents. The project area is approximately 306 acres and has 41 brownfields. In addition to underdeveloped and vacant land, the area is challenged by a significant lack of investment, commercial vacancy, and building deterioration. It is characterized by low household incomes, high unemployment, and low housing values. The unemployment rate is 16 percent, and 25 percent of families live below the

Pilot Program Description



EPA is awarding approximately \$4 million in total across 23 recipients. Recipients will each receive up to approximately \$175,000 in EPA cooperative agreement and/or direct technical assistance. Assistance will help recipients initiate development of an area-wide plan and identify next steps and resources needed to implement the plan.

Contacts

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

EPA's Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization
(202) 566-0633

Assistance Recipient: City of Aurora, CO
(303) 739-7052

The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the project proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement and/or direct technical assistance have not yet been negotiated. Activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

poverty level. Aurora has been engaged in active ongoing planning efforts in the area since the 1990s, and has analyzed the impacts on the target area of redevelopment at the nearby former Stapleton Airport and former Fitzsimons Army Medical Base. The brownfields area-wide planning process will facilitate community involvement in developing a shared vision for the area (based on market realities) and in gathering environmental data to inform brownfields site assessment and cleanup.