

# Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Pilot Project Fact Sheet



## Kalispell, MT

### 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 Kalispell as a Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Pilot Program recipient. The city will focus on the Core Revitalization Area (CRA), which is located in the heart of Kalispell and is home to approximately 1,300 people. More than 20 percent of residents in the CRA live below the poverty level, and the median income is almost \$20,000 less than the state average. More than 13 percent of business properties in the CRA are vacant. The CRA generally follows historic railroad tracks and contains multiple brownfields. These brownfields have had a negative impact on property values and discouraged

### 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>).

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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.

area investment. The CRA project began in 2004 when the community decided to develop a downtown strategy to revitalize the central core of Kalispell. The area-wide plan will identify and rank brownfields along the rail corridor in the CRA, both in terms of health risk and revitalization need, develop a market study and needs assessment to inform brownfields site reuse planning, and allow the city to more fully involve the community in the planning process. Development of the plan is expected to encourage the cleanup and reuse of the CRA to meet community needs, and encourage park, trail, and property redevelopment.