

Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Pilot Project Fact Sheet



Lowell, MA

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 Lowell as a Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Pilot Program recipient. The city will focus this assistance on the Tanner Street Corridor, which is south of the city's central business district and home to 1,768 residents. Most of the area is zoned for heavy industry, with some commercial and residential areas on the periphery. It is one of only a few active industrial areas in Lowell, with an emphasis on automobile and metal recycling. The city has identified at least six brownfield sites in the project area. Many businesses have relocated out of the city because there is little room for expansion,

Pilot Program Description



EPA is awarding approximately \$1 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.

and there is a shortage of industrial land to attract new industries. Lowell's unemployment rate is higher than both the state and national unemployment rates, and 35 percent of residents in the project area live in poverty. The area-wide plan will build on the city's Tanner Street Initiative. Development of the plan is expected to facilitate community involvement in brownfield assessment and cleanup, and target brownfields redevelopment of existing underutilized industrial properties within close proximity to multimodal transit and existing infrastructure.