

# Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Pilot Project Fact Sheet



## Phoenix, AZ

### 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 Phoenix as a Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Pilot Program recipient. The city will focus its pilot project on the Del Rio Area (population 3,708) located in the center of Phoenix along Rio Salado. More than 85 percent of residents are minorities. Unemployment is nearly 12 percent, and more than 37 percent of residents live below the poverty level. Within the project area, the 160-acre Del Rio Landfill site is a high priority brownfields site for the city. With 80 percent of the land zoned for heavy industry, there is a severe shortage of recreational facilities for area residents. The city has adopted a Rio Salado Beyond the Banks Area

### 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.

Plan that includes the Del Rio Area and will continue to work with the community to develop a cohesive brownfields area-wide plan. The area-wide planning will facilitate community involvement with bilingual sessions to prepare the public to participate in brownfields site reuse planning. Development of the plan is expected to encourage the assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment of brownfield sites and connect these sites to improved recreational areas for residents, access to mass transit, and increased commercial and business opportunities.