

Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Pilot Project Fact Sheet



Ranson, WV

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 Ranson as a Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Pilot Program recipient. Ranson and its partner community, Charles Town, are located in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia. Ranson is targeting the 1.5-mile Commerce Corridor, which is along the Ranson-Charles Town border and has 3,000 residents. Ranson has traditionally been an industrial community. Over the past few years, more than 1,500 jobs in Ranson have been lost as several major manufacturing facilities have closed their plants. More than 25 percent of residents live below the poverty level. There are at least 15 brownfields in the Commerce Corridor

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 Ranson, WV
(304) 725-1010

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. Ranson and Charles Town launched the Commerce Corridor Initiative in 1999 to revitalize the area. The initiative has been advanced by several city resolutions and agreements. The area-wide plan will help Ranson and Charles Town prioritize brownfields site assessment and cleanup and develop site-specific reuse plans based on community input. Development of the plan is expected to facilitate community involvement in brownfields assessment and cleanup and encourage development of high-tech commercial office buildings in vacant areas between Ranson and Charles Town.