

# Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Pilot Project Fact Sheet



## Sanford, ME

### 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 Town of Sanford as a Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Pilot Program recipient. Located in the southwestern corner of Maine, Sanford (population 22,000) was a thriving mill town until the 1950s, when the textile industry collapsed. Other manufacturing and warehousing operations followed. Sanford will focus this assistance on the Mill Yard area, 45 acres located in downtown Sanford, that once was the economic heart of town. The Mill Yard has a history of extensive industrial use and contains at least 20 brownfields. The nearby neighborhoods are the most distressed in town, and the unemployment rate

### 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.

is higher than the surrounding areas. In 2005, the town began a conceptual redevelopment plan for the Mill Yard, downtown, and Mousam River waterfront. The brownfields area-wide plan will focus on site reuse plans that maximize the reuse of existing infrastructure and allow for additional greenspace and recreational opportunities. Development of the plan will facilitate community involvement and enable the town to prioritize brownfield assessment and cleanup, incorporate energy conservation and alternative energy into reuse, and coordinate corridor growth.