

Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Pilot Project Fact Sheet



New Bern, NC

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 New Bern as a Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Pilot Program recipient. New Bern is targeting the Five Points neighborhood, an area adjacent to the city's downtown historic district. The area is home to 7,726 people. Once a vibrant area of residential and commercial activities, Five Points has experienced years of disinvestment, and many properties have been abandoned. More than 30 percent of residents live below the poverty level. The Five Points neighborhood contains at least 39 brownfields, including abandoned gas stations, former dry cleaners, and many underutilized buildings.

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.

More than 30 percent of the retail space is vacant. The area-wide plan for the Five Points neighborhood will identify best uses for brownfields based on environmental data and community input, and assess current infrastructure needs to support reuse. Development of the plan is expected to facilitate community involvement in brownfields assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment, connect brownfields reuse to new job opportunities, and increase transit opportunities for the community.