

Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Communities

GRANTEE UPDATE



EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, tribes, 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.

The TAB grantees provide technical assistance on a wide range of cleanup and redevelopment activities at brownfield sites. The four TAB grantees—awarded in 2008—provide technical assistance to communities facing brownfields challenges. TAB grantees also review and explain technical reports to communities and stakeholders. They help stakeholders understand health risks associated with brownfields, and assist with understanding environmental issues and how they affect brownfield cleanup and redevelopment. TAB grantees facilitate brownfield redevelopment efforts by supporting community and stakeholder involvement activities.

HOPE Enterprise Corporation

HOPE Enterprise Corporation (HEC)—formerly Enterprise Corporation of the Delta (ECD)—is a community development institution committed to strengthening economically distressed communities. HEC



TAB services include “Brownfields 101” educational workshops and presentations, creation of brownfields site inventories, personalized site assessment, cleanup and redevelopment planning; research to identify funding sources; assistance with community outreach, including meeting and dialogue facilitation; and workshops on writing brownfields grant applications.

HEC has provided more than 85 specialized types of brownfields assistance to local governments and nonprofit organizations within EPA Regions 4 and 6. Through a TAB Helpline set up in 2009, HEC has helped more than 40 other entities overcome obstacles to the safe reuse of brownfields. Five of the local governments assisted by HEC in preparing grant applications received grant awards. In addition, HEC provided TAB assistance to a number of existing EPA Brownfields grantees.

In St. Marks, Florida, HEC helped find sources of funding for a planned solar energy facility, as well as research to identify solar energy equipment manufacturers. This facility will use 17 acres of a total 55-acre brownfield redevelopment project that includes a new boat repair facility, other commercial and retail uses, and preserved natural space. About 200 miles away in Eustis, Florida, HEC acted as a mediator to encourage dialogue between the city and two neighborhood associations concerned about representation in area brownfields redevelopment projects. Current plans for Eustis' brownfields include a new marina and expansion of a lakeside park for family recreation.



Stakeholders from EPA and several Mississippi communities participate in an HEC Brownfields workshop

HEC's greatest success enabled by TAB funding is its ability to educate small cities and rural communities about brownfields, and how EPA's Brownfields Program can be a tool for redevelopment and reuse. “Local governments have to see themselves as being a part of the redevelopment process, by assembling brownfields, assessing them, and in some cases, cleaning them to make them available to the private sector,” explains Charles Ray of PPM Consultants, an HEC contractor. “Many local governments don't see themselves as being in that role and we are able to change their perspective on that.”

Provider Information

Tab Provider: HOPE Enterprise Corporation

EPA Regions Served: 4 & 6

Areas of Expertise: Technical and financial assistance; community outreach; meeting facilitation; grant application writing; creation of site inventories; and personalized redevelopment plans and strategies

Contacts

For further information about HOPE Enterprise Corporation and its technical assistance to brownfields communities, visit: www.hope-ec.org. For specific TAB assistance, call (866) 843-3358 or email BFhelp@ecd.org.

Kansas State University

As a TAB grantee, Kansas State University (KSU) brings educational and technical resources to bear on communities and stakeholders affected by and working with brownfield sites. Through its TAB grant, KSU assists communities in understanding and participating in the redevelopment process by providing technical assistance to entities redeveloping brownfields.



One of KSU's most successful outreach tools is **TAB EZ** [<http://tabez.org>]. TAB EZ is a free online tool that helps users prepare EPA Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup grant proposals. The tool offers assistance in creating the framework for an application and provides strategies for writing. It does not provide content and ideas for a proposal. The site offers a tutorial on how to use it, sample grant applications, resources and links to further assist in the grant writing process, and personal support from KSU representatives. As of October 2010, TAB EZ has a total of 3,081 registered users. The tool registered 1,162 new users since August 2010 due to KSU outreach efforts.

KSU's **Brownfields Inventory Tool (BIT)** [<http://tab-bit.org>] is another free, online tool that assists users in creating inventories, submitting reports, and logging information about brownfields and other environmental programs. This program management tool is used to enter detailed data about brownfield sites and upload documents and related data; it will then generate a Property Profile Form (PPF). The PPF is a reporting requirement that EPA Brownfields grantees use to submit data on sites. BIT streamlines the creation of PPFs. Since going live in March 2010, the system has registered over 200 users.

Since award KSU has provided support in all ten of the states in Regions 5 and 7; it has also provided 32 communities in those states with site-specific technical assistance. For example, in North St. Paul, Minnesota, KSU reviewed ground water chemical data and a geotechnical report for the city and facilitated interaction with the state environmental agency. In Fremont, Nebraska, KSU assisted the city with preparing a Request for Proposal to secure a contractor for cleanup activities under EPA's Brownfields Cleanup program. For the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Minnesota, KSU provided information on writing a Phase II environmental site assessment.

The TAB Coordinator at KSU, Dr. Sabine Martin, regularly speaks and presents at workshops and conferences. KSU also helps plan and coordinate workshops related to brownfields activities.



Community members and KSU representatives work together at redevelopment visioning



Dr. Martin sits on many planning committees as they prepare agendas, speakers and topics to cover. Since the grant award, KSU representatives hosted and/or participated in 36 workshops and conducted three redevelopment charettes. KSU assisted with planning and participating in four brownfields grant outreach workshops in Nebraska, Missouri, Iowa and Kansas in 2010.

Dr. Martin says, "Through our three web tools and our brownfields workshops, the TAB program at KSU is reaching people and providing resources to parties interested in brownfields revitalization in Regions 5 and 7."

KSU representatives provide a myriad of support to communities, cities and other stakeholder groups. Whether it is deciphering a technical report, planning or attending a workshop, providing general brownfields-related information through representatives, or supporting its TAB EZ and BIT systems, KSU offers efficient and effective support.

Provider Information

Tab Provider: Kansas State University

EPA Regions Served: 5 & 7

Areas of Expertise: Workshops on brownfields redevelopment process, review of contractor solicitations and responses, review of technical reports related to environmental assessment and cleanup work, community and stakeholder engagement

Contacts

For further information about KSU, its technical assistance to brownfields communities, and access to TAB EZ and BIT, visit www.engg.ksu.edu/chsr/outreach/tab/. For more information about this project, call (785) 532-6474.

Center for Creative Land Recycling

The Center for Creative Land Recycling (CCLR or “See Clear”) encourages sustainability and responsible land use and development.

CCLR and its partner, the

Community Brownfields Foundation (CBF), who services entities in Region 8, provide technical assistance and customized education to brownfields communities in the western United States. CCLR and CBF have provided assistance to over 175 communities—including states, counties, cities and nonprofit developers.



To best serve its TAB constituents, CCLR offers an interactive learning tool on its website. **Land Recycling 101** [www.cclr.org/101/] details the benefits, obstacles and “how-to” of brownfields cleanup and redevelopment presented in a visual and interactive manner. It is easy and fun to use, and provides a user-friendly way for communities, development entities, and other stakeholders to access up-to-date information on brownfields redevelopment and CCLR services.

CCLR also uses face-to-face meetings, workshops and its online **Brownfields Resource Center** [www.cclr.org/resources] to provide assistance to brownfields communities in the western states. The Brownfields Resource Center is a one-stop shop providing concise, organized information to communities in EPA Regions 8, 9 and 10. Users can quickly and easily access information on funding opportunities, regulatory processes, and other resources in their state. The site includes contact information and current brownfields redevelopment news. Since launching the Brownfields Resource Center in October 2009, CCLR has had over 20,000 website hits with an average of 80 visitors a day.

Both CCLR and CBF regularly participate in forums, workshops and conferences by designing and planning sessions or providing communication and outreach about upcoming events. In 2009, CCLR promoted, designed and hosted a financial workshop at the Washington Brownfields Conference, garnering speakers from state and federal agencies. CCLR and CBF provided similar services for conferences in Alaska, Oregon and Utah in 2010.

Through its outreach and assistance tools, CCLR (together with CBF) is reaching as many communities as possible. The



CCLR and CBF provide information to communities, plan workshops, and participate in forums

organization combines the global outreach capabilities of the Internet with personal, one-on-one contact with individuals, states, cities, communities or entities working in brownfields in Regions 8, 9 and 10. As Ignacio Dayrit, CCLR Director of Programs puts it, “Every community is unique, and we want to reach anyone doing brownfields in the West.”

Provider Information

Tab Provider: Center for Creative Land Recycling

EPA Regions Served: 8, 9 & 10

Areas of Expertise: Resource center approach to providing assistance, specialized technical assistance to stakeholders in brownfields redevelopment, custom trainings

Contacts

For further information about CCLR and its technical assistance to brownfields communities in Regions 9 and 10 (American Samoa, Alaska, Arizona, California, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon and Washington) visit www.cclr.org/resources or call (415) 398-1080, or for Region 8 (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming), visit www.ColoradoBrownfieldsFoundation.org or call (303) 962-0942.

New Jersey Institute of Technology

The New Jersey Institute for Technology (NJIT), York Center for Environmental Engineering and Science has provided brownfields services to communities in the Northeast United States for 14



years. NJIT was awarded its TAB grant to assist communities that are attempting to clean up and revitalize brownfield properties in EPA Regions 1, 2 and 3. NJIT draws upon a team of professionals with experience in academic research, government, industry and consulting.

Since receiving its TAB grant, NJIT has provided a myriad of services to communities in its service area. For example, NJIT's assistance includes: EPA Assessment and Cleanup grant proposal assistance; one-on-one technical assistance with communities; hosting and running workshops on topics such as state voluntary cleanup programs (VCP) and Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) grant assistance; webinars on funding sources and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant requirements; assistance with data gathering; and other technical assistance.

In May 2009, NJIT held a workshop in Derby, Connecticut for EPA Brownfields grantees that were experiencing difficulties in marketing their RLF programs to potential borrowers. Communities in attendance consisted primarily of grantees in New England and included training topics such as: "how to identify your audience," "developing a good sales pitch," and "making the RLF more appealing to borrowers." As a result of the workshop, many grantees in attendance gained a better understanding of how to market loans in the economic downturn. Specifically, the Valley Council of Governments in Derby reported back to NJIT that they are working on several projects as result of the workshop and felt they have a better understanding of marketing as they move forward with projects.

In addition to educational workshops, NJIT provides direct technical assistance to communities facing challenges with brownfields issues. For example, NJIT helped the Middlesex County Improvement Authority, in Middlesex County, New Jersey, with site prioritization, consultant procurement,



Hudson County Assessment grant's new stadium under construction in New Jersey

stakeholder coordination, and technical field support. In Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, NJIT assisted Earth Conservancy—a nonprofit dedicated to reclamation and reutilization of former coal mining lands—with the development of project goals, data gathering and outreach, and a feasibility analysis for utilizing a mine fire as a source of geothermal energy.

As Colette Santasieri, Manager of NJIT's TAB Program, states, "The NJIT TAB program provides valuable assistance to communities that lack the technical capabilities for identifying, remediating and redeveloping brownfields. Through our workshops, one-on-one technical mentoring and website, we have been able to bring to bear on-the-ground experience to help communities navigate brownfields issues as well as save them grant money by assisting in data gathering, investigation planning, and redevelopment strategizing."

Provider Information

Tab Provider: New Jersey Institute of Technology

EPA Regions Served: 1, 2 & 3

Areas of Expertise: Environmental laws and regulations, grant application assistance, site cleanup and redevelopment planning, community engagement

Contacts

For further information about the New Jersey Institute of Technology and its technical assistance to brownfields communities, visit www.njit.edu/tab/. To reach the NJIT TAB Hotline, call (973) 642-4165.

This TAB Grantee Update provides general information about the four TAB providers as well as describes some of the ongoing efforts each provider is undertaking. For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields website at: www.epa.gov/brownfields or call (202) 566-2777.