

Developing Practical Land Revitalization Tools for Communities

USING THE PREPARED WORKBOOK IN CONNECTICUT

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, EPA REGION 1

Like other states, municipalities in Connecticut are faced with the challenge of productively and sustainably reusing brownfields properties. Connecticut has an extensive brownfield program that is administered through the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP), Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (CTDECD) and other state agencies. Accessing information and resources involves multiple websites, which is made more difficult if the user does not have a good familiarity with the various state and federal programs relevant to their brownfields sites.

EPA is working with CTDEEP to create a Web-based tool to help Connecticut's municipalities navigate the redevelopment process and access applicable state and EPA information. This tool is based on the PREPARED Workbook, published by EPA in 2011, which outlines a risk management framework to help municipalities evaluate actions to bring about the reuse of brownfield properties.

The project will provide a user-friendly interface for municipalities to engage the Connecticut Brownfields program and address specific issues related to their brownfield sites. The Web-based tool will walk a municipality through the steps outlined in the PREPARED Workbook. Each step in this process will be briefly described and linked to the appropriate sections of the PREPARED Workbook where more detailed discussion is available, as well as to relevant Connecticut information, guidance and resources. The process will include worksheets in an electronic format and instructions for their use.

In addition, EPA is providing technical assistance to update the original PREPARED Workbook worksheets to reflect state-specific and more up-to-date information. By using this tool, municipal project managers will gather information from a broad team of professionals and be better equipped to make decisions about their level of involvement in individual brownfields sites from a risk management perspective. Connecticut initiated the project in March 2014 and expects to complete it by December 2014.

For more information, please contact Kathy Castagna, EPA Region 1, castagna.kathleen@epa.gov.

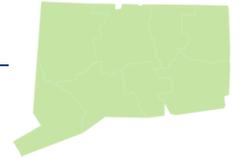


Figure 7: Stakeholder engagement is central to the PREPARED Workbook process for brownfields redevelopment.

NEXT STEPS

- Meet with Connecticut information technology staff to finalize Web map.
- Develop final draft of Web page content.
- Test final draft of Web page content and Web format with key Connecticut municipalities.
- Provide final Web page content for publication on Connecticut website.