

Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Pilot Project Fact Sheet



Ogdensburg, NY

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 Ogdensburg as a Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Pilot Program recipient. The city (population 12,364) is targeting a corridor of approximately 330 acres along the waterfront of the St. Lawrence and Oswegatchie Rivers, which corresponds to its Brownfields Opportunity Area. Ogdensburg was once a hub of industrial and commercial activities, but today has areas with high unemployment rates and is classified by the state as a fiscally distressed city. The majority of the city's brownfields and vacant lands lie on its waterfront in the target area, which has more than 15 identified brownfields and many others suspected of being contami-

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.

nated. Poverty rates in neighborhoods of the target area are as high as 19 percent. In 2009, the city facilitated community visioning and a community planning and economic development summit. The area-wide planning process will build upon that effort and lead to a Brownfield Action Plan, including a detailed inventory of brownfields, site conditions and reuse opportunities, and analysis of existing infrastructure. Development of the plan is expected to facilitate community involvement in brownfield cleanup and redevelopment and connect brownfields reuse to new jobs and recreational resources.