

Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Pilot Project Fact Sheet



Roanoke, VA

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 Roanoke as a Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Pilot Program recipient. The city will focus on the Rail Corridor Planning Area, which covers 558 acres, contains portions of four neighborhoods, and is home to 5,371 residents. Economic shifts and changes in transportation have left many properties underused, vacant, or abandoned. There are at least 60 brownfield sites in the area, many of which are located near densely populated residential areas. As industries have closed and properties have fallen into disrepair, they have caused a widespread decrease in property values and increase in

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.

blighted conditions. The Rail Corridor area-wide planning process will identify future uses of brownfields in the Corridor through detailed analysis of economic conditions, market demand, and needed infrastructure improvements. Development of the plan is expected to facilitate community involvement in brownfields assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment to benefit residents and business owners and support neighborhood revitalization.