

EPA's Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Communities Program

Transforming environmental liabilities
into community assets



What is TAB?

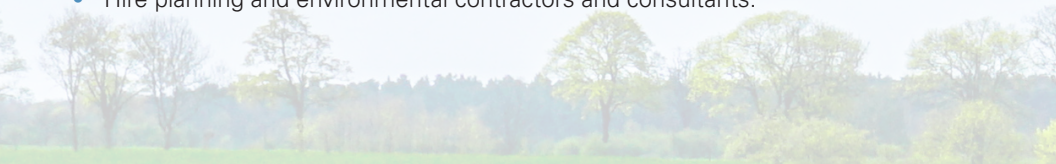
The Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Communities Program helps communities, states, tribes and others understand risks associated with contaminated or potentially contaminated properties, called brownfields, and learn how to assess, safely clean up and sustainably reuse them.

EPA funds three organizations—Kansas State University (KSU), the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) and the Center for Creative Land Recycling (CCLR)—to serve as independent sources of technical assistance. Each of these TABs has an extensive network of partners, contractors and other contacts that provides services across the country. They help communities tackle a variety of challenges related to identifying, assessing, cleaning up and redeveloping brownfields.

The technical assistance comes at no cost to communities. This makes the TAB program a great resource for small, underserved, rural and other communities that might otherwise struggle to address their brownfields.

TAB helps communities:

- Identify, inventory and prioritize brownfields for redevelopment.
- Determine the potential public health impact of brownfields.
- Get the public and other stakeholders involved.
- Facilitate site reuse goal-setting and planning charrettes.
- Evaluate economic feasibility of reuse plans.
- Conduct educational workshops, seminars and webinars.
- Use Web-based tools to facilitate brownfields redevelopment.
- Interpret technical brownfield reports, assessments and plans.
- Identify appropriate funding/financing approaches.
- Integrate approaches to brownfield cleanup and redevelopment.
- Understand and navigate regulatory requirements.
- Apply for and manage EPA brownfields grants.
- Develop work plans.
- Hire planning and environmental contractors and consultants.



Examples of TAB Assistance

Brownfields Planning in St. Louis, Missouri

KSU TAB supported St. Louis in redevelopment planning efforts by conducting workshops where city officials and others interested in brownfields worked together to determine local capacity to address blight and vacancy.

Taking Inventory in Towaoc, Colorado

KSU TAB assisted the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe by importing data for more than 100 sites into the Brownfield Inventory Tool, a free, Web-based resource that helps record environmental and administrative information on local brownfields. The tool is available at www.ksutab.org.

Interpreting Technical Reports in Providence, Rhode Island

NJIT TAB reviewed and interpreted several site investigation reports for the Environmental Justice League of Rhode Island. They explained site contamination and its potential impacts to residents and assisted in developing a timeline for cleanup. NJIT TAB provided several documents identifying the most significant potential public health threats and assessing environmental activities that took place at the brownfield site.

Conducting Community Focus Groups in Gresham, Oregon

CCLR TAB and its partners assisted the Rockwood Community Development Corporation in hosting a visioning workshop to brainstorm long-term goals and strategies to revitalize a community park. The community generated a collective vision and paved the way for the transformation of the park into a vibrant and valuable community asset.

Identifying Financing in Richmond, California

CCLR TAB helped the city restructure a project's finances to provide for site cleanup. Onsite contamination, which included pesticides, lead and chemicals, was removed with the help of three EPA Brownfield Cleanup Grants, paving the way for the site's redevelopment.

Transforming Contaminated Land in Dover-Foxcroft, Maine

NJIT TAB grantees assisted town officials in developing a community engagement framework to build community consensus on a redevelopment plan for a contaminated former mill and tannery. TAB hosted public charrettes with core stakeholders and facilitated agreement on short- and long-term uses and activities for the site. By identifying opportunities to coordinate cleanup with reuse, TAB's technical assistance helped the community reopen the property as a 36-acre park. The park provides access to the Piscataquis River via a canoe and kayak launch and trails for running, walking, cross country skiing and snowshoeing.



Ready to get started?

Each TAB grantee provides a wide range of free technical assistance to help communities redevelop brownfields. For more information, contact a TAB grantee near you.

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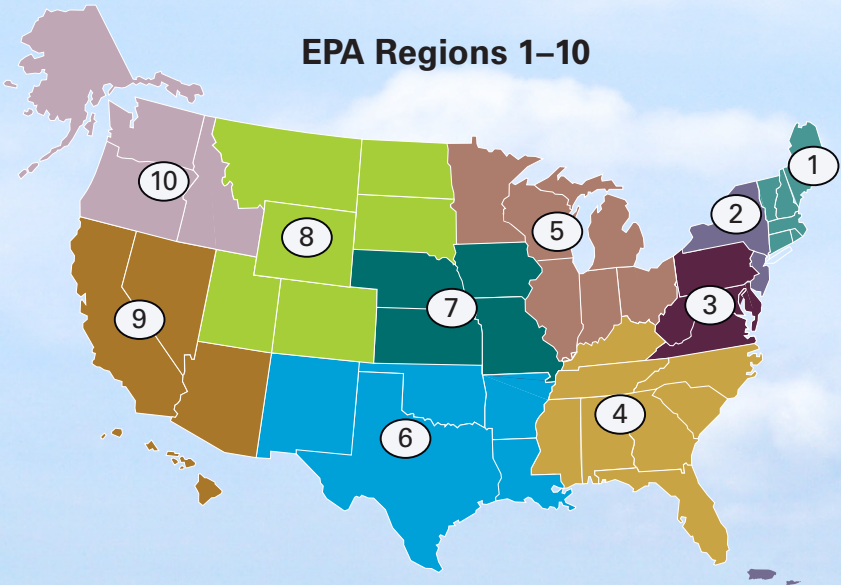
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