

Brownfields

National, State and Regional Programs

Jim Byrne, Brownfields Coordinator & Cleanup Grant Lead, EPA

Chris Redmond, Manager, Brownfields & VRAP, ME DEP

Raegan Young, Special Projects & Coms Manager, SMPDC

EPA Brownfields Program

Jim Byrne, Brownfields Coordinator & Cleanup Grant Lead, EPA



Brownfields 101

- ▶ What is a Brownfield?
 - A property might be a “brownfield” due to potential contamination from past uses that is inhibiting continued use or reuse of the site. Brownfields are often concentrated in historically underserved communities (*as defined by the EPA*).
- ▶ Brownfield sites might include:
 - Former gas stations
 - Former industrial sites
 - Former dry cleaners
 - Old buildings
 - Vacant lots
 - Historic mills or factories



<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/understanding-brownfields>



Summary of Grant Programs

Grant Type	Description	Grant Funding Amounts
Assessment	To develop inventory, characterize, conduct assessment to determine if sites are contaminated (if so, to what extent), perform community involvement, and plan for cleanup	\$500K - \$2M
Cleanup	For eligible municipalities and nonprofits to clean up contaminated properties	\$500K - \$5M
Revolving Loan Fund	For larger organizations to capitalize funds for issuing cleanup loans and subgrants	\$1M (Initial)
Multipurpose	For a flexible range of planning, assessment, and cleanup activities within a certain target area	\$1M



Brownfields Program Update

- ▶ FY23 Multipurpose, Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup (MARC) Competition
 - Guidelines Released September 14
 - Applications Due November 13
 - National Review Period and Panel Discussions
 - Awards Announced in the Spring



<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/multipurpose-assessment-rlf-and-cleanup-marc-grant-application-resources>



Job Training Grants



► **Competitive grants** that recruit, train, and place unemployed/under-employed residents of communities affected by brownfields and other issues in jobs within the environmental field. Up to \$500K

► Training topics can include:

- Waste Site Cleanup
- Health & Safety
- Heavy Equip. Operator/CDL
- Wastewater Treatment
- Asbestos Abatement
- Lead Paint/RRP
- Green Infrastructure
- Solar Installation



Technical Assistance Programs

In addition to the assessment and cleanup grants of the Brownfields and Land Revitalization Program, there are various free resources available to help inform assessment, cleanup, and reuse decisions.

These technical assistance programs can help further the success of a brownfield investment, particularly considering things such as market analyses, equitable development, and climate resiliency. This can help bring both project success and broad, long-lasting benefits to a community.

Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Program

- University of Connecticut (UConn)

Land Revitalization TA Program

Regionally-Directed TA Program

Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) Program



Cumulative Funding Through FY23

Competitive Grant and Targeted Brownfields Assessment Funding:
\$92,323,932.00

State and Tribal 128(a) Funding:
\$20,945,929.00

Total:
\$113,269,861.00

out of more than \$600,000,000 in New England funding since the Brownfields Program inception

<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/funding-history-brownfields-and-land-revitalization-new-england>

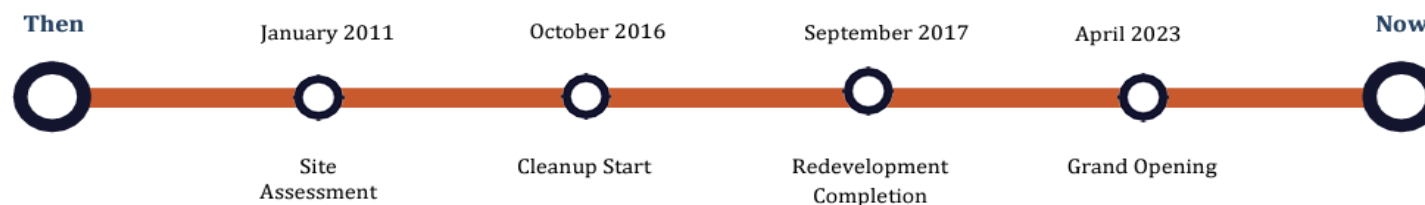


Brownfields Success Story: Howard Street Apartments, New London

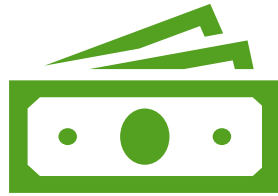
<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/r1-success-story-howard-street-apartments-new-london-conn>

"The result is the repurposing of a parcel that has been vacant and blighted for more than two decades into much needed housing that will help attract the talent necessary to support New London's burgeoning defense, offshore wind, and healthcare industries. The resulting residential growth will, in turn, support the city's small businesses. The partnership between EPA and the city will have far reaching benefits across the city for years into the future."

– New London Mayor, Michael Passero



Bipartisan Infrastructure Law



\$1.5 Billion for Brownfields

Much higher amounts of money!

Address the economic, social, and environmental challenges caused by brownfields and reposition these properties for investment and revitalization.

More emphasis on environmental justice and climate resilience.

<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/bipartisan-infrastructure-law-historic-investment-brownfields>



Fact Sheet Available Here

BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW: A HISTORIC INVESTMENT IN BROWNFIELDS

President Biden's leadership and bipartisan Congressional action have delivered the single-largest investment in U.S. brownfields infrastructure ever. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests more than **\$1.5 billion** through EPA's highly successful Brownfields Program.

\$1.2 BILLION IN PROJECT GRANTS
\$300 MILLION TO STATE AND TRIBAL RESPONSE PROGRAMS

A historic \$1.5 billion investment in EPA's Brownfields Program will transform countless sites and spur life-changing revitalization in communities large and small, urban and rural, all with the same desire to keep their neighborhoods healthy, sustainable and reflective of the people who call it home. The funding will be used to:

- Remove barriers to brownfields reuse and spur new redevelopment to transform communities into sustainable and environmentally just places.
- Align with the President's Environmental Justice Executive Order by stimulating economic opportunity and environmental revitalization in more than **1,700 historically overburdened communities**.
- Enhance climate resiliency and promote equitable and sustainable redevelopment through expanded technical assistance for "Climate Smart Brownfields Redevelopment."
- Provide necessary funds to **states/territories and over 100 tribes**, as the lead agencies in ensuring **all brownfields** are safely cleaned up.
- Direct grants and technical assistance funded with the Brownfields Program will cleanup hundreds of brownfields, assess **18,000 sites**, train **3,450 people**, **2,350** people in environmental jobs and assist **hundreds of communities** in identifying equitable reuse options to cultivate healthy, resilient, livable neighborhoods.
- Leverage 154,000 jobs and \$30.2 billion** in other public/private funding.

With EPA's funding and direct technical assistance, overburdened communities can begin to address the economic, social and environmental challenges caused by brownfields and reposition these properties for investment and revitalization.

2023 OFFERINGS*

Grant Type	Amount	Requirements	Application Deadline	Projects Awarded
Assessment Grants	UP TO \$1 MILLION - \$2 MILLION PER GRANT	For states and tribes to determine extent of contamination and plan revitalization of brownfield sites. No cost share requirement.	Applications due November 2022	Projects awarded Summer 2023
Cleanup Grants	UP TO \$500,000 - \$2 MILLION PER GRANT	For communities, states, tribes and nonprofits to cleanup contamination on brownfield sites. No cost share requirement.	Applications due November 2022	Projects awarded Summer 2023
Remedial Loan Fund (RLF) Grants	UP TO \$1 MILLION PER GRANT	For communities, states, tribes and nonprofits to provide loans and subgrants for the cleanup of contamination and revitalization of brownfield sites. No cost share requirement.	Applications from applicants with no open RLF Grant due November 2022 - Funds awarded Summer 2023 Supplemental requests of up to \$1 Million from existing Grant recipients who have an open RLF Grant due March 2023 - Funds awarded Summer 2023	
Job Training Grants	UP TO \$500,000 per grant	For communities, states, tribes and nonprofits to develop a job training program that supports revitalization of brownfield sites. No cost share requirement.	Applications due August 2023	Projects awarded January 2024
Technical Assistance, Including State, Tribal, and Tribal Response Programs	\$60 MILLION available per year	The largest investment ever in direct contracts and cooperative agreements to provide communities with technical assistance to adapt to a changing climate and remove barriers to safe and sustainable property reuse. Projects awarded on a rolling basis.	Applications due December 2022	Funds awarded September 2023

*Funding amounts and deadlines are tentative and subject to change.



Giving Priority to Environmental Justice (EJ) and Climate Resilience



Environmental Justice: fair treatment and meaningful involvement



Climate Resilience: adjust to and prepare for impacts and prevent and reduce emissions



Links/Resources

- ▶ [R1Brownfields Web Site](#)
- ▶ [Success Stories - Story Map](#)
- ▶ [Team Contact List](#)
- ▶ [Funding History](#)



The screenshot shows the EPA Region 1 website for Brownfields and Land Revitalization. The page title is "Brownfields and Land Revitalization in Region 1". The main content area states: "EPA Region 1 manages Brownfields and Land Revitalization programs in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont." Below this, it says: "Visit the national [Brownfields Program](#) web site for general information about the Brownfields Program and competitive grants and the [Land Revitalization Program](#) web site for additional information on EPA efforts to previously contaminated properties back into productive use." On the right side, there is a yellow callout box that reads: "FY2021 Proposal Guidelines for Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup Grants" and "Proposal due October 28, 2020". The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with the following items: "Brownfields Home", "Overview", "Program Accomplishments", "Environmental and Economic Benefits", "Types of Grant Funding", "Solicitations for Brownfield Grants", and "Brownfields and Land Revitalization Activities Near You". At the bottom of the sidebar, there is a "Region 1" button. The top right of the page has "CONTACT US" and "SHARE" buttons with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Email.



Contact Information

Jim Byrne

Brownfields Coordinator & Cleanup Grant Lead

byrne.james@epa.gov

617-918-1389

William Lariviere

Job Training Coordinator

lariviere.william.@epa.gov

617-918-1231





Maine Department of Environmental Protection

Division of Remediation, Brownfields

Chris Redmond, Manager, Brownfields & VRAP, ME DEP

Maine DEP Brownfields Funding

- Currently, and for the next several years, DEP has approximately \$650,000 per year of brownfields grant funding.
- Funding used for Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments.
- Funding also used for smaller cleanup projects (\$50K-ish).
- Rolling applications, simple application process. If it is not a municipality or non-profit applying, we request buy in from the town.



...Maine DEP Brownfields Funding

- We work on sites statewide, big and small.
- DEP tries to provide funding to areas that may not have access to other brownfields grant opportunities, such as a council of governments with brownfields grant funding in a region.
- Please just reach out if you have a brownfields site you think might be a good fit and that could benefit from environmental assessment or cleanup.



Maine DECD Brownfields Funding

- Maine DECD currently has approximately \$3 million available for cleanup at brownfields sites through its Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). DEP and DECD work together.
- Site must be owned by a municipality or non-profit to be eligible for cleanup grant money. Any entity is eligible for low interest cleanup loans.
- Generally, you must take at least 50% of the funding as a loan, and 50% in grant. We require that to meet our EPA grant terms.



...Maine DECD Brownfields Funding

- Site must be assessed and ready for cleanup to be eligible.
- Open application period each fall. Applications for Revolving Loan Fund due December 15th this year. Those will be prioritized, but you can always inquire about DECD Brownfields RLF funding.





Contact:

Chris Redmond

christopher.redmond@maine.gov

207-215-8597

Search Maine DEP or the Federal EPA Website for “Brownfields”

<https://www.maine.gov/dep/spills/brownfields/index.html>

<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields>



Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission

Raegan Young, Special Projects & Coms Manager, SMPDC

Brownfields programs at the regional level

What we do, how to access funds, or how to do it yourself!

SMPDC Brownfields History

- Received first assessment grants in the early 2000's, **began Revolving Loan Fund Program in 2007**, have received additional RLF grants and supplemental allocations since
- Have **dispersed approximately \$12 million in RLF loans and grants**
- Large scale projects focused in Biddeford & Sanford, smaller scale projects throughout region.
- Revolved loan payments, **“program income”**, has allowed the program to be flexible, sustained and grow



What We Offer

Assessment funding support – covers for Phase I, Phase II, Phase II + funds

- Sites must first be assessed for contamination
- Assessment could be funded partially or in full, depending on available funds

Revolving Loan Fund – with grants (non-profits, municipalities) and loans for private entities

- RLF can support clean up planning and remediation - this sometimes includes redevelopment
- Grants and loans cover all eligible remediation costs
- Our loans are low-interest, flexible terms, and desirable in this market
- Grants and loans range from \$200,000 to \$2 million +

Funding availability varies from year to year



What makes Brownfields unique?



- Often catalyzes redevelopment of a site that would otherwise not be financially feasible
- As an EDD, it often means even more for the communities we work in, and advances larger planning and economic development goals
 - *New housing, market-rate and affordable*
 - *New commercial property which generates income, jobs for the community*
 - *New public spaces, recreation or parks*
 - *Vibrancy, activity and life in previously unused, physically unsafe sites*

If you are looking to do a project...

- **Find a program** in your region, or look to the state and federal programs – engage folks early on
- **Understand the site** – do a Phase 1 ESA before taking ownership!
- **Know what you're getting into** – Brownfields is a federal program with usual federal hoops, is this the right source for your needs?
- **Have patience and be creative**



If you are looking to start a program...

Talk with EPA and our regional technical assistance provider UCONN

Start with Assessment

- Understand what potential projects are in your geography
- Tee up projects for remediation
- Collaborate with regional, state partners and EPA to access remediation funds

Revolving Loan Fund

- On a regional level, the RLF can be a huge benefit to member communities
- Get projects off the ground that may have been infeasible for decades
- Talk with neighboring programs to understand priorities and challenges



For everyone...

Reach out!

Maine has many great organizations doing this work who talk and collaborate with each other- join the club.

Thanks for coming!



Raegan Young

Special Projects and Communications Manager
Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission

ryoung@smpdc.org