



Brownfields 2003 Grant Fact Sheet

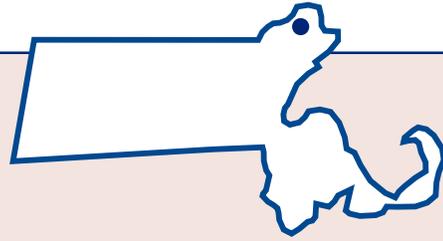
*Merrimack Valley
Planning Commission,
Northeast MA*

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development 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. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The Merrimack Valley was selected to receive an assessment grant. The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC) is a public, nonprofit regional planning agency that serves 15 cities and towns in northeast Massachusetts, 13 of which will be targeted for assistance under this grant. The Merrimack Valley region, known as the "birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution," is a federally designated Economic Development District. The area faces numerous problems that hamper economic development. Key among these problems is real or perceived environmental contamination at many commercial and industrial sites throughout the valley. MVPC has a strong



Assessment Grant

**New
2003**

*\$200,000 for hazardous substances
\$200,000 for petroleum*

EPA has selected the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission for a brownfields assessment grant. Grant funds will be used to develop a brownfields program, create a comprehensive brownfields inventory and database, evaluate and prioritize sites for assessment and redevelopment, perform Phase I and II site assessments, and support an ongoing public involvement program. A number of prospective sites have been identified that may be contaminated with petroleum and hazardous substances related to past uses as mill yards and manufacturing facilities.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields/

EPA Region 1 Brownfields Team
617-918-1210
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: Merrimack Valley Planning Commission, MA
978-374-0519

Prior to receipt of these funds in fiscal year 2003, the MVPC has not received funding for brownfields grants. Two towns within Merrimack Valley have received brownfields funding. The Town of Lawrence has received brownfields funding for assessment and revolving loan fund grants, and the Town of Methuen has received brownfields funding for assessment grants.

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

community outreach program, which will continue throughout the project.