



Brownfields 2004 Grant Fact Sheet

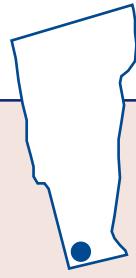
*Bennington
County Regional
Commission, VT*

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, the President 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 Bennington County Regional Commission was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Primarily a rural area, the region has a population of 35,387. The area has the highest poverty rate in Vermont (11.1 percent), and the poverty rate for children under five is nearly 27 percent. With the loss of the manufacturing sector in the county, the region's workforce has suffered significant declines in higher-paying manufacturing jobs. Between 1981 and 2000, the total private sector workforce declined by almost 24 percent. At the same time, the under-40 population has declined by more than 12 percent. Many of the



Assessment Grant

New
2004

\$200,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected the Bennington County Regional Commission for a brownfields assessment grant. Grant funds will be used to identify potential brownfield sites throughout southwestern Vermont. The information will be added to an existing geographic information system for subsequent tracking. Once identified, a select number of properties will undergo Phase I site assessments, and a smaller subset will undergo Phase II site assessments. A portion of the grant will be used to support a regional steering committee to coordinate among the various municipalities and communities.

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

617-918-1221

<http://www.epa.gov/region01/brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: Bennington County Regional Commission, VT

802-375-2576

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

remaining service jobs are related to the seasonal tourism industry. Assessment and cleanup of the brownfields sites will remove the potential hazards and stigma attached to the properties that are inhibiting redevelopment.