



# Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

*Brewer, ME*

## 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. 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 City of Brewer was selected to receive a brownfields revolving loan fund grant. Located in southern Maine, Brewer (population 8,951) is evolving from manufacturing to a more sustainable technology and retail base. For 90 years, Brewer was a mill-based community with local businesses built around the Eastern Fine Paper Mill on the Penobscot River waterfront. This mill, the city's largest employer and taxpayer, supported numerous smaller industries in the area. Since the mill closed, businesses in the area also closed, and 18 percent of residents in the area surrounding the mill live below the poverty level. The deterioration of the mill buildings has driven down adjacent home values, perpetuated a spiral of disrepair, and contributed to the creation of additional brownfields. Among the other 20 brownfields in the



## Revolving Loan Fund Grant



**\$1,000,000 for hazardous substances**

EPA has selected the City of Brewer for a brownfields revolving loan fund grant. The grant will be used to capitalize a revolving loan fund from which the City of Brewer will provide loans and subgrants to support cleanup activities for sites contaminated with hazardous substances throughout the City of Brewer. Grant funds also will be used to conduct community outreach activities.

## 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](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

EPA Region 1 Brownfields Team  
617-918-1424

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

Grant Recipient: City of Brewer, ME  
207-989-7500

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

area are machine shops, a former automobile and battery recycler, a boat yard and boat maintenance facility, and several former bulk petroleum storage facilities. When brownfields are revitalized, they will be used for a waterfront trail, and high-tech, cultural, and retail purposes. Brownfields redevelopment is expected to create greenspace, reduce health risks, diversify the city's employers, add to the tax base, and serve as a catalyst to reverse the increasing trend of slum and blight in Brewer.