



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

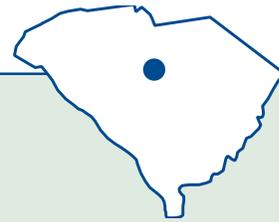
Columbia, SC

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 Columbia was selected to receive two brownfields assessment grants. Columbia (population 116,278) is the state capital and largest city in South Carolina. In recent years, sections of the city with high concentrations of historic buildings have experienced a renaissance. However, this revitalization has not reached the disadvantaged Empowerment Zone communities or the East Central City and Eau Claire/North Columbia communities. In these neighborhoods, minority populations make up more than 80 percent of residents as compared to 51 percent and 25 percent for the city and state, respectively. Approximately 35 percent of target-area families live below the poverty level, and the unemployment rate is twice the national average. These neighborhoods are home to priority brownfields sites, including an abandoned airplane



Assessment Grants

New
2006

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

EPA has selected the City of Columbia for two brownfields assessment grants. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to conduct public involvement activities, inventory sites, perform environmental site assessments, monitor the health of citizens near selected sites, and develop cleanup and redevelopment plans for affected neighborhoods, focusing primarily on the city's Empowerment Zone. Petroleum grant funds will be used to perform the same tasks at sites with potential petroleum contamination, especially in the East Central City and Eau Claire/North Columbia 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 4 Brownfields Team
404-562-8866
<http://www.epa.gov/region4/waste/bf/index.htm>

Grant Recipient: City of Columbia, SC
803-545-3041

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

hangar, former brass plating and laundry facilities, blighted former service stations, vacant lots, and boarded-up homes. These numerous brownfields, scattered throughout the neighborhoods and lining major arteries, have discouraged new investment and business expansion in the area. Assessment and eventual cleanup of the brownfields properties are expected to help remove such impediments, create jobs

and opportunities for local residents, provide much needed services to the neighborhoods, and spur additional economic development in the surrounding communities.