



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

*Southern Maine
Regional Planning
Commission,
Springvale, 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 Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission was selected to receive two brownfields assessment grants. The Commission serves 39 communities in York, Cumberland, and Oxford Counties (population 186,000). Southern Maine has a rich industrial heritage, particularly in the textile industry dating back to the late 1800s. Most of the communities in the region were developed to serve industrial mills, the majority of which are now abandoned, moth-balled, or



Assessment Grants



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

EPA has selected the Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission for two brownfields assessment grants. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to update the existing brownfields inventory and reassess priorities. Funds also will be used to conduct Phase I and II site assessments at four to six sites within the region's 39 communities, and to conduct a community involvement program, including public meetings. Petroleum funds will be used to perform the same tasks at sites with potential petroleum contamination.

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
617-918-1424

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

Grant Recipient: Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission, ME
207-324-2952

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

in some cases condemned. The Commission has identified at least 300 potential brownfields, including 100 contaminated with petroleum. The region has significant problems with the loss of manufacturing jobs, and includes distressed communities with poverty rates as high as 19.5 percent, and unemployment rates as high as seven percent. Brownfields assessment will focus on the downtown and adjacent areas, with the goal of renovating mill structures for mixed uses.

Brownfields redevelopment will combat suburban sprawl, offer redevelopment opportunities for investors that will preserve the natural and historic character of the region, create new jobs, and revitalize local economies.