



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

*Windham Regional
Commission,
Southeast Vermont*

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 Windham Regional Commission was selected to receive two brownfields assessment grants. The Commission serves 46,449 people in 27 towns in southeastern Vermont. Much of the region's economic base was formed around the plentiful streams and rivers that provided power for wool, paper, and lumber mills; munitions manufacturing; foundries; and other industries. Over the years, many of these industries closed, leaving a legacy of pollution at numerous brownfields sites. The Town of Brattleboro is estimated to have as many as 150 brownfields, and the



Assessment Grants



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

EPA has selected the Windham Regional Commission for two brownfields assessment grants. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to conduct up to four Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments and assist with cleanup planning for up to two sites. Grant funds also will be used for community outreach and coordination, especially with low-to-moderate income residents around the region. Petroleum grant funds will be used to conduct the same tasks at petroleum sites.

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: Windham Regional Commission,
VT
802-257-4547

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

Town of Rockingham has about 75. While the population has grown in most area towns, the traditional manufacturing towns have been in decline. There is a serious shortage of living-wage jobs in the region. The blighted brownfields have negatively impacted nearby property values and the tax base, potentially endangered public health, and deterred redevelopment. Assessment and eventual cleanup of the region's brownfields will help protect the health of residents and local waterways

and spur reuse of the abandoned and underutilized properties. Redevelopment will create jobs, increase tax revenues, preserve rural lands, and restore community pride to the Windham region.