



Brownfields 2007 Grant Fact Sheet

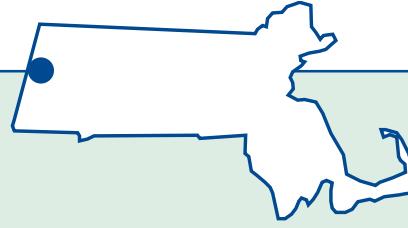
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Berkshire County, MA

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 Berkshire Regional Planning Commission was selected to receive two brownfields assessment grants and a brownfields revolving loan fund grant. Located in western Massachusetts, Berkshire County includes 32 communities (combined population 134,953). By 1995, the number of manufacturing jobs in the county had declined from more than 40 percent of the county's total jobs to only 14 percent. Over the last five years, another 15 manufacturers have closed their doors.



Assessment Grants



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

EPA has selected the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission for two brownfields assessment grants. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to inventory and prioritize sites, conduct ten Phase I and two to three Phase II environmental site assessments, and support community outreach activities throughout the region. Petroleum grant funds will be used to perform the same tasks at sites with potential petroleum contamination.

Revolving Loan Fund Grant



\$600,000 for hazardous substances
\$400,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission for a brownfields revolving loan fund grant. The grant will be used to capitalize a revolving loan fund from which the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission will provide loans and subgrants to support cleanup activities at sites contaminated with petroleum and hazardous substances. Grant funds also will be used to conduct community outreach activities and cleanup oversight.

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: Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, MA

High-paying manufacturing jobs have been replaced by lower-paying retail and service sector jobs. There are now more than 1,100 known brownfields in the county. Many of these sites are located in neighborhoods with large pockets of low-income residents. Berkshire County has a declining population and the third highest poverty level in the state. The county will assess and clean up brownfields in the region's developed core, which is home to 88 percent of its residents, 75 percent of its developed land, and 95 percent of its jobs. This will reduce threats to public health and the environment and encourage redevelopment of urban core properties into productive reuses.

413-442-1521

The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.