



Brownfields 2007 Grant Fact Sheet

*Franklin Regional
Council of
Governments,
Franklin 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 Franklin Regional Council of Governments was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Located in the upper Connecticut River Valley in western Massachusetts, Franklin County (population 72,334) occupies over 725 square miles and is considered the state's most rural area. Of the 26 towns in the county, 18 have populations of fewer than 2,000. Historically, the region's economy was based on agriculture. As industrial innovations developed, manufacturing facilities capitalized on the region's



Assessment Grant

New
2007

\$200,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected the Franklin Regional Council of Governments for a brownfields assessment grant. Petroleum grant funds will be used to update an inventory of underground storage tank and gas station sites throughout the 26 towns in Franklin County. Grant funds also will be used to conduct at least six Phase I and three to four Phase II environmental site assessments, and support 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.

EPA Region 1 Brownfields Team
617-918-1424

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

Grant Recipient: Franklin Regional Council of Governments, MA
413-774-1194, ext. 105

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.

hydropower and natural resource base. As large manufacturing plants have given way to smaller businesses, towns and village centers have struggled to remain economically viable. Many of the communities that once served as manufacturing employment centers have experienced declines in population. The Franklin Regional Council of Governments has identified 134 underground storage tank sites and 38 former gas stations in the county. Assessment of these brownfields will help communities facilitate their reuse. Brownfields redevelopment will enhance local tax bases, create jobs, and protect public health and the environment.