



# Brownfields 2007 Grant Fact Sheet

## *Van Buren County, MI*

### 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

Van Buren County was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Van Buren County (population 77,235) is located in southwestern Michigan on the shores of Lake Michigan. It is a rural county made up of 29 small communities with an agriculturally based economy. The county is a major fruit and vegetable producer, which has attracted fruit juice and canning plants to the area. In addition, manufacturing facilities moved to the county to take advantage of the plentiful water supplies from Lake Michigan and the Black River. Many of these plants have closed, leaving vacant and abandoned buildings surrounded by deteriorating residential neighborhoods. Agricultural land in the county is facing increasing



### Assessment Grant



#### \$200,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected Van Buren County for a brownfields assessment grant. Petroleum grant funds will be used to conduct community outreach, inventory brownfields, and conduct up to 13 Phase I and up to eight Phase II environmental site assessments.

### 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](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

EPA Region 5 Brownfields Team  
312-886-7576

<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: Van Buren County, MI  
269-657-8234

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.

development pressure from surrounding, more populous counties. To help preserve its agricultural lands and economic base, the county is working to encourage redevelopment of brownfields that typically are located in, or adjacent to, the downtown areas of the county. Assessment grant funds will help the county leverage public and private resources to redevelop brownfields and preserve valuable agricultural lands.