



# Brownfields 2008 Grant Fact Sheet

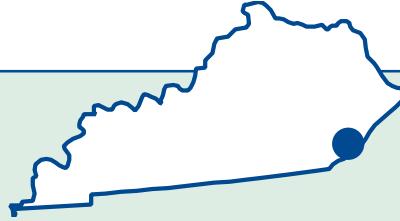
*Letcher County  
Conservation District,  
KY*

## 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 this 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 Letcher County Conservation District was selected to receive two brownfields assessment grants. Located in southeastern Kentucky, Letcher County (population 25,277) was a prominent coal mining community. When the railroad reached Letcher County in the 20th Century, large corporations such as U.S. Steel and Consolidated Coal quickly brought tens of thousands of immigrants to work in the mines along with local farming families. The mechanization of the mining industry in the second half of the 20th Century brought economic decline and out-migration. Old mining refuse piles and surface mines scar the land-



## Assessment Grants

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

EPA has selected the Letcher County Conservation District for two brownfields assessment grants. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to create an inventory of mine-scarred lands using geographic information system technology, conduct four to six Phase I and one to three Phase II environmental site assessments, and perform community outreach activities. Petroleum grant 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](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

EPA Region 4 Brownfields Team  
404-562-8792

<http://www.epa.gov/region4/waste/bf>

Grant Recipient: Letcher County Conservation District, KY  
606-633-4448

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.

scape. Abandoned elevated coal bins and other industrial infrastructure, such as machine shops and switchyards, sit vacant. More than 27 percent of Letcher County's population lives below the poverty level, and the unemployment rate is over eight percent. The county's per capita income is \$11,984. Assessment of mine-scarred lands throughout the county is expected to spur redevelopment and boost community pride.