



Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Columbus, OH

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA selected the City of Columbus for a Brownfields Pilot. Columbus (population 632,900) is the nation's sixteenth-largest city and has grown significantly over the past two decades. However, this development has moved away from central Columbus, leaving the city's urban core littered with abandoned buildings and former industrial sites. Many of these brownfields exist near the Port Columbus Airport. The resulting high unemployment rate, high crime rate, and a lack of new economic development opportunities led to Columbus being designated a federal Enterprise Community (EC). The unemployment rate within the EC is 16 percent, and the minority population rate is 65 percent.

OBJECTIVES

Columbus will administer Pilot funding through the Columbus Brownfields Task Force (CBTF), which was formed in 1996 and comprises both public and private sector partners. Pilot funds will be used to perform public outreach and initial environmental assessments at several sites as well as Phase II environmental assessments at two sites.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Columbus, Ohio

Date of Award: September 1998

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets former industrial sites located near the Port Columbus Airport and within the city's federally designated Enterprise Community.

Contacts:

City of Columbus, Department of Trade and Development (614) 645-6427
U.S. EPA – Region 5 (312) 353-3161

Visit the EPA Region 5 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The Pilot has:

- Created site identification/prioritization, technical oversight, outreach, and public policy committees for the CBTF;
- Completed work on an informational brownfields video and manual for the communities in the targeted area;
- Compiled an inventory of 25 sites, and targeted 18 brownfields properties for further investigation;
- Conducted assessments on the Cleveland/11th Avenue, Woodland/Woodward, and A.D. Farrows properties; and
- Completed Phase I environmental assessments at four sites and Phase II assessments at three sites (These sites include A.D. Farrows, Galli-4 Corners, and Woodland/ Woodward.). A site draft Phase II assessment has been completed for a fourth site.

The Pilot is:

- Gathering brownfields site-specific information from city agencies, local residents, and former and current property owners; and
- Performing Phase II environmental assessments on three sites, with a draft report completed on a fourth site.

LEVERAGING OTHER ACTIVITIES

Experience with the Columbus Pilot has been a catalyst for related activities, including the following:

- The Ohio Department of Transportation and the Veterans' Administration (VA) provided a total of \$90,000 in funding for Phase I and Phase II assessments under the Voluntary Action Program.
- Cleveland and 11th Avenue 4 Corners leveraged \$2 million, with the total leveraged assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment dollars equaling more than \$38 million. The Pilot has secured 253 current or pledged jobs.
- The city was awarded an additional \$500,000 grant under EPA's Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilot program.
- The VA is planning to redevelop the Woodland/ Woodward site into a VA clinic.