

EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

New London, CT

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

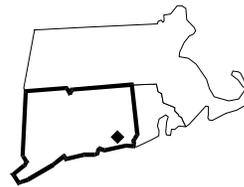
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that 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 has selected the City of New London for a Brownfields Pilot. New London was also selected to receive additional funding for assessments at Brownfields properties to be used for greenspace purposes. New London (population 28,540) has an unemployment rate of 7.6 percent and more than half of its residents live below the poverty line. Minorities make up nearly one-third of New London's residents. The city also has had a declining population for 40 years.

Due to its location along the Thames River, New London has a rich maritime history. Fort Trumbull was home to the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, where SONAR and other advances in military surveillance were made, but the closing of Fort Trumbull has created an economic and environmental burden on the city. The large, closed site is suspected to contain contamination from years of whaling, shipbuilding, canning, and storage and distribution of military supplies. The city itself is small, with a total land area of 5.79 square miles. Within this area, more than half of the land is tax_exempt, decreasing city revenue. With no large parcels left for development (the only undeveloped land are parcels

PILOT SNAPSHOT



New London, CT

Date of Announcement:
May 2000

Amount: \$200,000
Greenspace: \$50,000

Profile: The Pilot targets the environmental and economic redevelopment of four sites and the ecological restoration of one site within the Ft. Trumbull area of New London.

Contacts:

City of New London
(860) 447-5203

Regional Brownfields Team
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(617) 918-1424

Visit the EPA Region 1 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/remed/brnflid/>

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/>

of less than one acre) the city must turn to its brownfields for revitalization and redevelopment. In addition, New London is below the state's standard on in-city parkland.

OBJECTIVES

The New London Brownfields Pilot focuses on promoting the redevelopment of five brownfields sites in or adjacent to Ft. Trumbull. Four of these sites are targeted for economic redevelopment, and one has been designated for greenspace use. By taking advantage of successful redevelopment efforts already underway in the Ft. Trumbull area, the Pilot will carry out site assessments and mobilize community involvement groups to promote development of the sites. The city has already assessed and cleaned up two brownfields sites in the Fort Trumbull area, and the Pilot will address the remaining five. The City of New London is participating in the economic revitalization of the entire southeastern Connecticut area, by seeking to become a major transportation hub and centerpiece to the region's redevelopment. In addition, the Pilot will use greenspace funds to address a fifth brownfields site and create the Bentley Creek Wetland Restoration Area.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Performing Phase I and Phase II site assessments;
- Empowering community-involvement groups;
- Generating site reuse plans; and
- Performing site assessment and working with the community on the greenspace project site.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.