

# EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

## *Somerset County, NJ*

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.

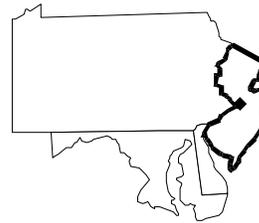
## BACKGROUND

EPA has selected Somerset County for a Brownfields Pilot. Somerset County has a number of older, industrial, demographically challenged, distressed town centers, including Bound Brook, Raritan, North Plainfield, Somerville, South Bound Brook, and Manville. These communities form the bygone industrial and manufacturing backbone of Somerset County and have a number of known brownfields sites. The impact of brownfields on these targeted communities is severe. Somerset county has more than 400 brownfields totaling nearly 200,000 acres. The targeted communities have almost 25 percent of the brownfields in the county, but only have 4 percent of the total land. Minority populations and senior citizens make up the residential component of the neighborhoods near the brownfield sites where unemployment figures are high and household income is low.

## OBJECTIVES

The county's objective is to revitalize targeted brownfields in Somerset County both economically and environmentally. The Pilot funds will augment the existing brownfields program and broaden smart growth strategies in Somerset County. Pilot activities

## PILOT SNAPSHOT



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**Date of Announcement:**  
May 2000

**Amount:** \$200,000

**Profile:** The Pilot will target brownfields located in several socially and economically distressed communities, including Bound Brook, Raritan, North Plainfield, Somerville, South Bound Brook and Manville.

### Contacts:

Somerset County  
Administration Building  
(908) 231-7000

Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA - Region 2  
(212) 637-4314

Visit the EPA Region 2 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/r02earth/superfnd/brownfld/bfmainpg.htm>

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/>

will help to mitigate potential health threats in the targeted communities and spur redevelopment through assessment and cleanup activities at the two or three selected brownfields sites in Somerset County.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting various site selection activities, such as creating a geographic information system and other databases to evaluate and rank brownfields in the targeted areas;
- Performing environmental site assessments at the selected sites;
- Conducting community outreach to help guide Pilot activities and involve local residents with the targeted sites; and
- Developing a computer model to help cleanup and redevelopment planning at the targeted sites.

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