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Solid Waste
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www.epa.gov/brownfields/



EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

West Springfield, MA

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, and safely clean up brownfields to promote their sustainable reuse. Brownfields are abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years, with additional funding provided for greenspace) to test assessment models and facilitate coordinated assessment and cleanup efforts at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels; and 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 program (each funded up to \$1,000,000 over five years) to provide financial assistance 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 Town of West Springfield for a Brownfields Pilot. Located in western Massachusetts, West Springfield (population 27,537) is a densely populated urban area bordering the Connecticut River, an American Heritage River. The West Springfield Trade Center property, an old five-acre industrial complex, is the targeted Pilot property. This property, which is in the middle of the Merrick industrial area, is characterized by many contaminated facilities and inadequate roadways. The majority of nearby residents earn less than 80 percent of the median income in West Springfield.

The Pilot property is attractive to businesses that need easy interstate highway access for customer use and transportation of materials. However, contamination concerns and inadequate roads in the area have stalled redevelopment. The city is taking parcels for non-payment of back taxes with the intent of redeveloping them. The combination of low-income neighborhoods and a deteriorating industrial complex sets the stage for needed investment in site assessment and cleanup in the Pilot area.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



West Springfield,
Massachusetts

Date of Announcement:
April 2001

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets several city-owned parcels on the West Springfield Trade Center property which is located within an economically depressed industrial area.

Contacts:

Town of West Springfield
(413) 263-3044

Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA - Region 1
(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/>

OBJECTIVES

The city's long-term objective is to recapture and renew this area through brownfields cleanup, land-use and traffic changes, economic development, and housing development. As part of this objective, the Pilot will initiate an environmental assessment of several of West Springfield Trade Center properties and resolve barriers to cleanup.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Evaluating ownership and liability issues of parcels on the Trade Center property;
- Conducting Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments of parcels and rights-of-way that are owned, or about to be owned, by the city;
- Designing cleanup plans; and
- Implementing community involvement in the Pilot area.

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