



Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Burlington, NC

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

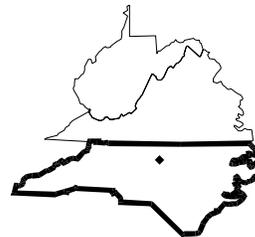
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 200 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots 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 Burlington for a Brownfields Pilot. The City (population 42,365) is located in the Piedmont Crescent region of North Carolina, between Charlotte and Research Triangle. The majority of the City's African-American, elderly and low-income population resides in east Burlington, an area comprising 1.5 square miles. Once a bustling textile center, east Burlington has experienced a decline in businesses and employment opportunities as the local economy shifted, leading to rapid development of greenfields in the City's western area.

For nearly a century, Burlington served as a textile center, but in recent years its economy shifted and the City is now home to many medical and high-tech businesses. Until the 1980s, Burlington's major manufacturing facilities were located in east Burlington. In the last decade, however, much of the industrial and commercial development in the City has shifted to the south and west, close to the interstate. The closures and downsizing of several textile mills have limited the employment opportunities for east Burlington's residents. While overall the City of Burlington experiences a good quality of life and prosperous business climate, neighborhoods in east Burlington continue to experience economic decline

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Burlington, North Carolina

Date of Announcement:
July 1998

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets the 1.5-square-mile east Burlington area.

Contacts:

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Regional Brownfields Team
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(404) 562-8661

Visit the EPA Region 4 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region4/wastepps/brownfpgs/bf.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/>

and are threatened with the onset of blight. Approximately 22% of the land and buildings in east Burlington are vacant; many of them are suspected or perceived to be environmentally contaminated.

OBJECTIVES

Burlington's primary objective is to establish a proactive, broad-based redevelopment model and plan that will lead to the cleanup, reuse, and development of brownfields sites in the community. The Pilot plans to use community steering committees, site assessments, and the creation of an information clearinghouse/database as key factors to achieve its objective.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments of all potentially contaminated property in east Burlington;
- Instituting a community outreach program;
- Creating a steering committee to utilize citizen involvement and collaborative problem-solving; and
- Developing an inventory and information database system to help facilitate environmental cleanup, economic planning, and redevelopment.

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