

# **Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot**

## *Hillsborough County, FL*

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 County of Hillsborough for a Brownfields Pilot. The county is just east of the City of Tampa. The Pilot targets the Orient/Eastlake Community, an approximately 16-square-mile area located in the eastern portion of Hillsborough County, adjacent to Tampa. This historical manufacturing area is characterized by a mix of commercial and industrial uses, as well as residential housing.

During the 1970s and 1980s, rapid suburban growth bypassed the vacant land in the target area for greenfields surrounding the Orient/Eastlake Community. Many older manufacturing buildings in the target area have been razed to avoid taxes, and several facilities have been cited for environmental violations by the state. The Orient Park neighborhood, located in the target area, is a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant target neighborhood.

### OBJECTIVES

The Pilot's objective is to conduct environmental assessments, plan environmental cleanup strategies, and include environmental justice goals in the community involvement portion of the redevelopment process. As a leveraged objective, the Pilot plans to have brownfields properties certified under the Florida

### PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Hillsborough County, Florida*

**Date of Announcement:**  
March 1999

**Amount:** \$200,000

**Profile:** The Pilot targets the Orient/Eastlake area of Hillsborough County, located east of the City of Tampa.

#### Contacts:

Planning and Growth  
Management Department  
Hillsborough County  
(813) 276-8465

Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA - Region 4  
(404) 562-8661

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

Brownfields Redevelopment Act to take advantage of further cleanup and redevelopment incentives offered by the state.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Forming a Brownfields Council, comprised of all stakeholders in the target area, to allow citizen and property owner involvement in planning site assessments and cleanup plans;
- Creating an inventory of brownfields properties in the target area that provides detailed ownership and contamination information; and
- Conducting Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments on properties screened and ranked by the Brownfields Council based on information in the Pilot's brownfields inventory.

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