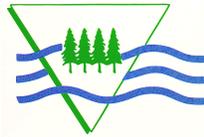


Conserving Land for People



CHAIRING AND FACILITATING THE BROWNFIELDS TRANSFORMATION



# The Brownfields National Partnership Action Agenda Accomplishments Report



## November 23, 1999

## RESULTS IN BRIEF

***“Revitalizing brownfields will help the citizens of America’s cities rebuild their own communities on a new foundation of hope.”***

– Vice President Gore, announcing the Brownfields National Partnership

- Brownfields National Partnership announced by Vice President Gore in May 1997.
  - 2-Year Partnership Action Agenda included more than \$300 million in commitments from more than 25 Federal agencies and partners.
  - Action completed or in progress at 93% of the Action Agenda goals — Partners report meeting 102 of 129 goals with another 19 action items in progress.
  - Partners estimate spending more than \$385 million for brownfields with another \$141 million in loan guarantees in connection with the Action Agenda.
  - 16 Brownfields Showcase Communities selected and underway, demonstrating collaborative approaches to brownfields cleanup and reuse.
  - EPA’s Brownfields Assessment Pilots report leveraging more than \$1.6 billion and helping create more than 5,000 jobs across the country.
  - Partners and communities report many collaborative successes going far beyond the original Action Agenda commitments.
-

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>Overview</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Brownfields National Partners</b>	
Americans for Indian Opportunity .....	13
Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials .....	15
Department of Agriculture .....	17
Department of Commerce	
Economic Development Administration .....	19
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration .....	23
Department of Defense .....	26
Army Corps of Engineers .....	28
Department of Education .....	32
Department of Energy .....	33
Department of Health and Human Services .....	36
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry .....	37
National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences .....	39
Department of Housing and Urban Development .....	41
Department of the Interior .....	48
Department of Justice .....	51
Department of Labor .....	53
Department of Transportation .....	55
Department of the Treasury .....	59
Office of the Comptroller of the Currency .....	61
Department of Veterans Affairs .....	62
Environmental Protection Agency .....	63
Federal Housing Finance Board .....	77
General Services Administration .....	80
Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute .....	83
Institute for Responsible Management .....	85
International City/County Management Association .....	88
National Association of County and City Health Officials .....	91
National Association of Local Government Environmental Professionals .....	93
National Governors' Association .....	95
Small Business Administration .....	98
The Trust for Public Land .....	99
U.S. Conference of Mayors .....	102
<b>Conclusion</b> .....	<b>105</b>

## Appendices

- Appendix A: National Partnership Commitments and Their Status
  - Appendix B: List of National Partnership Contacts
  - Appendix C: List of Publications
  - Appendix D: Acronym List
-

---

## Executive Summary

### Background

---

Communities today are facing multiple challenges, including environmental degradation, unemployment, deteriorating infrastructure and housing, and crime. Previous centers of economic growth have been lost to urban sprawl and lack of a skilled labor pool. At the center of these issues are *brownfields*, abandoned or under-used properties with real or perceived environmental contamination. Many of these brownfields sites were thriving factories or industrial centers—sources of economic vitality, jobs, and community pride. Now however, these neighborhood sites are sources of potential health hazards and indicators of urban blight. With hundreds of thousands of these sites in this country, it is an issue affecting almost every community in the nation.

Both State and local governments have had a long-standing role in dealing with the cleanup and reuse of such contaminated properties. As early as 1994, the U.S. Conference of Mayors—an organization of mayors representing over 1050 of our cities—identified brownfields as the number one environmental issue in the nation. Early on, even before the term brownfields became widespread, a few States developed voluntary cleanup programs to address cleanup and oversight of these properties. Now, approximately 40 States and Tribes have voluntary cleanup programs.

Spurred by these early efforts, awareness of brownfields and related issues has risen during the last decade. Public and private entities have recognized that the cleanup and sustainable reuse of brownfields can produce environmental, public health, and economic gains. Now, private foundations are supporting innovative projects to help address brownfields, including conferences, workshops, and seminars. Nonprofit organizations, private parties, and communities are working with Federal, State, and local government to empower and vitalize our communities. Following the strong suggestions of a wide-range of brownfields stakeholders, EPA worked with other Federal agencies to establish the Interagency Working Group on Brownfields in July 1996. Agencies worked internally, jointly, and with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to develop the Brownfields National Partnership Action Agenda.

### Action Agenda

---

The Action Agenda is a list of actions, or *commitments*, made by governmental and non-governmental partners that:

- Recognizes that national brownfields efforts are reaching a point well beyond pilot and demonstration projects, requiring care to avoid redundancies and misunderstanding of respective roles;
- Provides a framework for multi-level cooperation among governments, communities, businesses and non-governmental organizations;
- Commits more than \$300 million to FY97-98 action items to build upon and further stimulate State and local efforts to assess, clean up, and redevelop brownfields; and
- Provides a link between the cleanup and reuse of brownfields and other national trends including the growing understanding of sustainable development, the emerging importance of welfare-to-work initiatives, and the encouragement of community empowerment activities.

For the last two years, the Partners have worked independently and collectively to implement their specific brownfields commitments. This report explores the activities and actions of the Partners in meeting their commitments and documents their progress and successes. Often, a Partner's original commitment served as a spring board for numerous additional activities (also documented herein), from leveraged funds and

volunteer hours to workshops, conferences, and publications. Thus, while this *Accomplishments Report* presents a snapshot of the successes of the Action Agenda, the Partnership itself is dynamic and growing. Some of the accomplishments of the Action Agenda are summarized below.

## Accomplishments Summary

### ✓ This Accomplishments Report Documents that more than 93 Percent of the Action Agenda Commitments Are Complete or In Progress

The Brownfields National Partnership has successfully promoted the redevelopment of brownfields through the partners' completion of commitments. This report deems a partner's commitment to be "complete" when it has a defined time frame for completion and is implemented within that time period, or has an undefined time frame, and work towards its implementation is ongoing or has been completed with appropriate modifications to the original commitment. A commitment is "in progress" when it has a defined time frame for completion and work towards implementation is in progress. A commitment is "incomplete" when it has a defined or undefined time frame for completion and work towards its implementation is not or has not progressed. Of the 129 commitments, 102 are complete, 19 are in progress, and 8 are incomplete. The high commitment completion rate has leveraged State and local funds for brownfields projects and jobs. Brownfields Pilots report that more than 5,000 jobs have been created and over \$1.6 billion has been leveraged.

- EPA more than doubled its total expenditures to address brownfields between FY97 and FY98 (totaling more than \$126 million).

#### *Denver, CO—GSA Links Partners to Clean Up Site*

The General Services Administration (GSA), as the manager of Federally owned and leased properties, provided the link between Denver's Office of Economic Development and stakeholder agencies, such as HUD, EPA, and DOL, to assess and clean up an old, asbestos and PCB-contaminated Army medical supply site. The Denver Urban Redevelopment Authority was interested in purchasing that site. GSA funded much of the site cleanup and worked with EPA to facilitate reuse.

#### *Prichard, AL—DOE Provides Technical Assistance*

DOE is providing technical assistance and funding, and sponsoring information-exchange meetings in Prichard—possibly the State's most economically depressed city. DOE's involvement has helped to coordinate the city's efforts with EPA Region 4, Alabama's Department of Economic and Community Affairs, and Alabama A&M University.

- The General Services Administration (GSA) obligated \$1 million to fund environmental assessments on Federal properties.
- In 1998, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provided \$25 million in Brownfields Economic Development Initiative Funds and \$141 million in Section 108 loan guarantee funds for brownfields redevelopment. HUD estimates that communities are spending \$100 million in Community Development Block Grants for brownfields redevelopment.
- The Department of Energy (DOE) provided more than \$591,000 for programs to transfer its technology and property reuse expertise for use in brownfields projects.
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) increased its brownfields funding by more than 100 percent between FY97 and FY98 (totaling \$1,706,424) to address redevelopment issues in prime coastal-area brownfields sites.
- The Economic Development Administration (EDA) estimates it spent more than \$114.2 million for redevelopment of brownfields.

### ✓ More Funding Has Been Provided to Local Communities and State Governments

The Partnership estimates it spent more than \$385 million on FY97-98 Action Agenda commitments with another \$141 million in loan guarantees.

### ✓ More State and Local Funding Has Been Leveraged

The National Partnership has been successful in leveraging state and local funds, as well as private investments, and promoting employment creation through brownfields projects. For example:

- EPA reports that its Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots have helped create more than 5,000 jobs. In Lowell, MA, the City's redevelopment efforts have cleaned up the site of a former ash dump. The new, 6,000-seat Edward J. LeLacheur Ballpark opened its doors on June 22, 1998, providing 100 part-time and 10 full-time jobs during the opening season. The 8,000-seat Paul E. Tsongas Arena opened on January 27, 1998, creating 341 full- and part-time jobs at a former textile mill site.

In addition, more than \$1.6 billion in public and private investment has been leveraged in communities with brownfields throughout the nation. Two examples include:

- In Dallas, TX, nearly \$53 million in public (EPA, HUD, EDA) and private funding has been leveraged toward cleanup and redevelopment of blighted areas in Dallas.
- In Lowell, MA, more than \$75 million in public (State, city, HUD, EPA) funding has helped clean up and redevelop a former ash dump and a former textile mill site.

### ✓ Coordinated Technical Assistance Provided to Local Communities

The Action Agenda commitments have given assistance and tools to communities. For example:

- NOAA published the Coastal Tool catalog that provides tools and techniques for community-based revitalization efforts.
- The National Park Service (NPS) has helped to establish Groundwork Trusts for sustainable local organizations, in Bridgeport, CT, Lawrence, MA, and Providence, RI.
- EPA established the Targeted Brownfields Assessment program to provide aid to States, Tribes, and municipalities without EPA Assessment Pilot funding.
- The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) worked together to sign six cooperative agreements with local public health departments where ATSDR provided technical assistance and tools for addressing public health concerns at brownfields sites.
- The National Association of Local Government Environmental Professionals (NALGEP) has convened five workgroups for local officials to address various brownfields issues, ranging from views on the delegation of site cleanup authority to technical assistance on the use of funding from HUD.

#### Glen Cove, NY-A Showcase Community Expanding

In Glen Cove, NY, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Coastal Zone Management Program provided Glen Cove with more than \$400,000 for the restoration of Mill Pond and the improvement of waterfront recreation facilities. NOAA's Office of Sustainable Development and Intergovernmental Affairs contributed an additional \$20,000 to hold a series of waterfront revitalization workshops that brought together Federal, State, and local partners to support the development of a revitalized waterfront. These partners include EPA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the State Government of New York, and the Glen Cove Mayor's Office. It is these NOAA initiatives, supported by the Action Agenda, that enabled Glen Cove to focus on environmental cleanup and foster community redevelopment.



Demolition of an abandoned building on the Glen Cove waterfront

✓ **Enhanced Coordination and Partnership Successes:**

The Action Agenda has garnered results by fostering integrated efforts among the Partners. For example:

- EDA is working with EPA on the Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilot program and helping in Pilot selection.
- EPA has signed interagency agreements and MOUs for coordination of efforts between HUD, NOAA, NPS, GSA, and The Trust for Public Land (TPL).
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is contributing the efforts of its 57-member brownfields team to work with Showcase Communities.

**Bridgeport, CT-National Park Service (NPS) Creates Sustainable Reuse**

Through its Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, NPS has helped build a recreation and playground area in Bridgeport, CT. This NPS effort, in conjunction with a \$200,000 EPA grant, worked so well that now, where abandoned properties once stood, a 5,500-seat baseball stadium stands. EPA estimates that this grant has leveraged more than \$13 million in private and public funds and created more than 350 jobs.

**Smithville, TX-Federal Agencies, State VCP Working Together**

As a result of EPA's Targeted Brownfields Assessment program, funding from EDA and a certification from the Texas Voluntary Cleanup Program, the former Marhil manufacturing plant has been cleaned. The City foreclosed on the property and is leasing the property to a furniture panel manufacturer who has brought seven new jobs to the City.

**Clearwater, FL-Partnership in Action**

The town of Clearwater, FL, manages an EPA Brownfields Assessment Pilot that brings together a diverse group of brownfields stakeholders, including developers, businesses, the municipal government, and the community. Two other participants in the Action Agenda have played an important role. The Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute (HMTRI), in conjunction with EPA, designed a program to train individuals from the community for jobs associated with Brownfields redevelopment. The program graduated its first 11 individuals in Spring '99. Officials in Clearwater cited the utility of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) publication *Brownfields Redevelopment: A Guidebook for Local Government & Communities*. The Guidebook, developed as part of ICMA's commitment to the Action Agenda, has encouraged informed decisions during the Pilot and environmental justice planning processes.

**Dallas, TX-Integrated Partnership**

EDA, HUD, and EPA have provided funding for McCommas Bluff/Floral Farms, a site adjacent to the Dallas landfill that is the planned location of the International Environmental Training and Technology Center. The Center is expected to train an estimated 2,000 students and create as many as 700 positions. The center will blend traditional environmental science, creative research, and actual demonstrations in areas of waste management, wastewater management, recycling and wetland preservation. The project will likely include an eco-business park, a small business incubator, and classrooms, allowing Texas A&M University, Paul Quinn College, and the Dallas County Community College District to offer environmental classes. The City's adjacent landfill will be used as a living laboratory and training site for center participants. The effort, which began three years ago, is scheduled for completion in the year 2000.

---

## CONCLUSION

The Action Agenda represents a new national model for government reinvention and for public/private partnership. While isolated actions such as cleanup or job training can be successful, the National Partnership has shown that the combined efforts of all the stakeholders can be more successful. The accomplishments of the Action Agenda illustrate that coordinating the resources and expertise of Federal agencies and non-governmental organizations with local and state efforts can expedite the cleanup of more brownfields and spur more sustainable economic reuse. This report's list of completed commitments demonstrates the capacity for various organizations — with their diverse resources — to advance brownfields redevelopment and the benefits of supporting and expanding the Partnership. The successes demonstrated through the Partnership also confirm that public resources can be effectively used to leverage private investment in brownfields cleanup and redevelopment. By continuing to coordinate efforts and resources, the Partnership will turn more environmental challenges into economic and social assets in communities across the nation.

**The Brownfields  
National  
Partnership  
Action Agenda  
Accomplishments  
Report**



---

## Introduction

## Background

---

Located throughout the country, brownfields sites are abandoned, idle, or under used properties with real or perceived environmental contamination. The redevelopment of these sites represents one of the most complex issues facing urban and rural communities today. In an effort to facilitate brownfields site cleanup and reuse, EPA launched the Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative (“Brownfields Initiative”) in 1994. Because of the overwhelming desire to facilitate the redevelopment of these properties, various organizations and government entities responded to the Brownfields Initiative independently. These resulting divergent brownfields activities underscored the need for a more focused redevelopment program.

In response to stakeholder requests for a more systematic brownfields approach, EPA established the Brownfields National Partnership Action Agenda (Action Agenda) in May 1997. This Action Agenda represents the focused efforts of over 20 Federal agencies and non-governmental organizations in support of brownfields redevelopment in communities throughout the United States. The Action Agenda incorporates participant commitments to increase coordination between brownfields stakeholders and to promote brownfields redevelopment.

## Accomplishments Report

---

With the completion of two years of interagency and organizational coordination, EPA is presenting the *Brownfields National Partnership Action Agenda Accomplishments Report*. Specifically, this Report documents the progress of participating organizations and agencies in implementing 129 commitments to the Action Agenda. Report sections include:

- **Section One—Overview**

This section defines “brownfields”; discusses the impact of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) on the redevelopment of brownfields; and summarizes the Brownfields Initiative and the role of the Brownfields National Partnership in the Initiative.

- **Section Two—Action Agenda Accomplishments**

This section outlines the objectives and approach of the Action Agenda and introduces its accomplishments. The section describes the implementation status of Partner commitments and the impact of the Action Agenda on Brownfields Showcase Communities.

- **Section Three—Conclusion**

This section includes general observations regarding the overall effectiveness of the Action Agenda.

- **Appendices**

**Appendix A** provides an overview of the Partner commitment status in table format. **Appendix B** consolidates brownfields points of contact. **Appendix C** provides a list of frequently used terms and acronyms. **Appendix D** provides a list of publications related to brownfields programs and activities, generated from the implementation of the Action Agenda.

## Overview

---

The U.S. Conference of Mayors has identified brownfields redevelopment as its top national priority.<sup>1</sup> These sites not only impact urban and rural communities environmentally, but also socially and economically, contributing to unemployment, lost revenue, urban sprawl, blight, and societal decline. However, a multi-year effort, spearheaded by EPA and in concert with numerous other governmental and non-governmental organizations, was created to return brownfields sites to productive use. Through site cleanup and redevelopment, the Brownfields Initiative is enhancing environmental restoration and community well-being.

### What are Brownfields?

Brownfields sites are abandoned, idle, or under used industrial and commercial properties where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived contamination. Estimates vary regarding the number of brownfields sites throughout the country. According to the United States General Accounting Office (GAO), "450,000 brownfields sites exist in this country, affecting virtually every community in the nation."<sup>2</sup> A 1998 report written by the U.S. Conference of Mayors found that 126 cities combined possess 16,500 brownfields sites comprising over 47,000 acres of abandoned or under used properties.<sup>3</sup>

### How do Brownfields Impact Communities?

These under used properties represent an opportunity cost for cities and towns, leading to underemployment and a decrease in tax revenue. As referenced in the U.S. Conference of Mayors' 1999 report, 168 cities estimated they would receive between \$955 million to \$2.7 billion in additional annual tax dollars and create more than 675,000 jobs if their brownfields sites were returned to productive use.<sup>4</sup> The potential for increased employment, greater tax revenue, and the cleanup of contaminated properties validate stakeholder interests regarding brownfields redevelopment. However, the process leading to brownfields redevelopment is complex and involves numerous environmental, social, economic, and legal issues.

- **Environmental Impact:** The commonality underlying brownfields sites across the country is the presence of "real or perceived" contamination. This contamination, if real, is a threat to local residents, affecting human health and contributing to urban decay. Whether real or not, the belief that a site may be contaminated generates concern over liability issues, complicating redevelopment. In addition, the existence of contamination or its perceived threat results in business flight to undeveloped areas, exacerbating urban sprawl and contributing to the loss of open space (*i.e.*, greenfields). The U.S. Conference of Mayors estimates that between 1982 and 1992, 13,823,000 acres of farmland and open space were lost to greenfields development.<sup>5</sup>
- **Social Impact:** Following decades of business relocation to suburban areas, urban environments have suffered from neglect and deterioration, further exacerbating unemployment, crime, and blight. Accordingly, urban brownfields sites have increased substantially—a testament to the magnitude of urban decay, as indicated in an International City/County Management Association (ICMA) report:

---

1. The United States Conference of Mayors, "Recycling America's Land, A National Report on Brownfields Redevelopment," 1998.  
2. "Preamble to the Brownfields National Partnership Action Agenda," pg. 1.  
3. The United States Conference of Mayors, "Recycling America's Land, A National Report on Brownfields Redevelopment," 1998.  
4. U.S. Conference of Mayors, 1999.  
5. U.S. Conference of Mayors, 1998.

Many of the neighborhoods surrounding brownfields were traditionally stable, working class areas that have deteriorated since the departure of the industries that sustained them. Some of the nation's highest concentrations of poverty, crime, and other social problems are located in areas close to brownfields.<sup>6</sup> Often, these same "social problems" must be addressed when attracting brownfields redevelopment.

- **Economic Impact:** Economic constraints also contribute to urban decay and the proliferation of brownfields. New businesses are discouraged from locating in central urban areas because of high taxes and real estate costs. These expenses can also encourage established industries to relocate to suburban and rural properties. The loss of these businesses represents a decrease in tax revenue for local municipalities, contributing further to the spiral of decay. The relocation of businesses also results in a direct cost to local governments, which must extend services, including roads, sanitation, and electricity, to suburbs.
- **Legal Impact:** Finally, uncertainty regarding cleanup liability is a factor in both the creation and redevelopment of brownfields. Following decades of unsafe hazardous waste management, Congress enacted the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) in 1980. The Act's liability provisions, intended to ensure cleanup by the responsible party, actually may discourage the redevelopment of contaminated sites because of the fear of potential liability.

CERCLA liability is strict, joint and several, and retroactive. As such, past owners are responsible for cleanup (1) if they owned or operated the site when hazardous material disposal occurred, or (2) if they generated hazardous substances on, or transported them to, the property. CERCLA liability also applies to the present owner of the property regardless of whether the person is responsible for the contamination. It is the liability assessed to current or potential owners for site contamination that deters businesses from developing formerly used properties. As a result, potential urban land owners and tenants relocate to undeveloped land, ensuring freedom from liability but contributing to the possible generation of brownfields.

#### The Federal Brownfields Initiative

The Brownfields Initiative, spearheaded and coordinated by EPA, is an effort to facilitate the various brownfields-related activities occurring throughout the country. It empowers States, cities, Tribes, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely cleanup, and sustainably reuse brownfields. To effectively address the environmental, social, economic, and legal concerns, the Brownfields Initiative:

- Increases awareness of the importance of brownfields issues among stakeholders in redevelopment;
- Provides resources at the local, State, and national level for the assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment of brownfields sites; and
- Coordinates resources with stakeholders to effectively address brownfields issues and impacts.

Thus, the Brownfields Initiative promotes the redevelopment of idle or under used urban and rural properties, which present an opportunity for communities throughout the country to stimulate economic growth and community revitalization.

---

6. Kirshenberg, S. and W. Fischer, *Brownfields Redevelopment: A Guidebook for Local Governments and Communities*, International City/County Management Association, 1997, pg. 1-1.

The Brownfields Initiative operates through the following projects and supporting activities:

### **Pilots**

The Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (BCRLF) Pilots, Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilots, Facilitation Pilots, and the Showcase Communities have the common goal of testing and demonstrating innovative practices in various phases of brownfields redevelopment:

- The over 300 Assessment Demonstration Pilots focus on the assessment stage of brownfields work, exploring unique methods for approaching brownfields-related problems. EPA funds these pilots for up to \$200,000 for a two-year period to place resources in the hands of local communities to conduct environmental assessments and build capacity for ongoing local brownfields programs.
- The over 60 BCRLF Pilots provide an additional \$500,000 to existing Assessment Demonstration Pilots to capitalize revolving loan funds for the purpose of brownfields site cleanup.
- Each of the 21 Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilots are funded up to \$200,000 over two years. These Pilots bring together community groups, job training organizations, educators, labor groups, investors, lenders, developers, and other affected parties to address the issue of providing environmental employment and training for community residents impacted by brownfields.
- The nine Brownfields Facilitation Pilots are designed to explore the use of neutral facilitators and mediators for public participation, dispute resolution, and consensus building as tools to remove barriers that can hinder brownfields assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment. EPA has provided an additional \$20,000 in funding to Assessment Demonstration Pilots for these Facilitation Pilots.
- The 16 Showcase Communities, an experiment in Federal, State, and local interagency collaboration, were chosen by a broad interagency panel to serve as models to demonstrate the opportunities and benefits of a coordinated approach to the Brownfields Initiative. The goals of the Brownfields Showcase Communities project are to:
  - 1) Promote environmental protection and restoration, economic redevelopment, job creation, community revitalization, and public health protection through the assessment, cleanup, and sustainable reuse of brownfields;
  - 2) Link Federal, State, local, and non-governmental actions in support of community efforts to restore and reuse brownfields; and
  - 3) Develop national models demonstrating the positive results of public and private collaboration in addressing brownfields challenges.

### **Supporting Activities**

- Funding non-profit and educational institutions to train local people to take advantage of job opportunities in both the cleanup and redevelopment phases of brownfields projects.
- Clarifying brownfields liability issues through the development of tools, including comfort letters and prospective purchaser agreements, designed to alleviate the concerns of lending institutions, municipalities, property owners, developers, prospective purchasers, and others.
- Partnering with brownfields stakeholders, such as State and local governments, non-governmental organizations, and local communities in an effort to coordinate work on the multifaceted Brownfields Initiative.

Although these Pilots and supporting activities promoted brownfields cleanup and reuse, at times redevelopment efforts were unfocused. Consequently, EPA sought a way to coordinate the brownfields actions of the various Federal agencies involved in the Brownfields Initiative.

Federal Interagency Working Group on Brownfields

The Federal Interagency Working Group on Brownfields, established in July 1996, makes the Brownfields Initiative more effective through the coordination of agency efforts and resources. Representing a wide range of brownfields stakeholders, the Work Group combines the diverse backgrounds, expertise, and experience of each agency to facilitate the success of all aspects of brownfields cleanup and redevelopment. The Working Group, including more than 20 Federal departments and agencies, drafted a national strategy for brownfields redevelopment that evolved into the Brownfields National Partnership.

Brownfields National Partnership

The National Partnership seeks to support the Brownfields Initiative through the coordinated efforts of Federal agencies and non-governmental organizations. The cornerstone of EPA’s focus on partnership and outreach—the Brownfields National Partnership—attempts to organize the complex implementation aspects of the Brownfields Initiative, including the expertise of numerous governmental and non-governmental organizations. Participants in the National Partnership are listed below.

<b>National Partners</b>	
• Americans for Indian Opportunity (AIO)	• Department of Transportation (DOT)
• Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO)	• Department of the Treasury (Treasury)
• Department of Agriculture (USDA)	• Department of the Treasury: Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC)
• Department of Commerce (DOC): Economic Development Administration (EDA)	• Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
• Department of Commerce (DOC): National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	• Federal Housing Finance Board (FHFB)
• Department of Defense (DoD)	• General Services Administration (GSA)
• Department of Defense: Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	• Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute (HMTRI)
• Department of Education (ED)	• International City/County Management Association (ICMA)
• Department of Energy (DOE)	• Institute for Responsible Management (IRM)
• Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	• National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)
• Department of Health and Human Services: Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)	• National Association of Local Government Environmental Professionals (NALGEP)
• Department of Health and Human Services: National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)	• National Governors’ Association (NGA)
• Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)	• Small Business Administration (SBA)
• Department of the Interior (DOI)	• Trust for Public Land (TPL)
• Department of Justice (DOJ)	• U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM)
• Department of Labor (DOL)	• Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)