



# Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilot *Lewiston, ME*

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

Incorporated in 1795, the City of Lewiston is Maine's second largest city. With a strategic location on the Androscoggin River, it developed into a major manufacturing center. As textile and manufacturing jobs moved south in the mid 20th century, however, the City's economy began to decline. The area that surrounds its major mill, the Bates Mill, is one of the poorest in the nation with a poverty rate of over 40 percent. The loss of jobs (5,000 in the Bates Mill alone) created significant unemployment in the City's downtown and riverfront areas. Lewiston was designated the first rural Enterprise Community in New England. Lewiston is a Brownfield Assessment Pilot.

## BCRLF OBJECTIVES

Lewiston lacks space for development. Future redevelopment must rely on the productive reuse of brownfield properties. Overall, Lewiston's BCRLF goals include:

- Providing gap funding to revitalize abandoned/underutilized mill complexes;
- Creating and increasing the number of jobs in the Bates Mill complex;

### PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Lewiston, Maine*

**Date of Announcement:**  
May 2000

**Amount:** \$500,000

**BCRLF Target Area:**  
Bates Mill Complex

### Contacts:

City of Lewiston  
Development Department  
(207) 784-2951 x315

Region 1 BCRLF  
Coordinator  
(617) 918-1210

Visit the EPA Region 1 Brownfields web site at:  
[www.epa.gov/region01/waste/brown/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region01/waste/brown/index.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>

- Easing development pressure on greenfields; and
- Expanding Lewiston's tax base by maximizing commercial re-use of abandoned/underutilized industrial properties.

The City of Lewiston's BCRLF will focus initially on the 5-acre, one million square foot complex of Bates Mill. After the initial loan for the Bates Mill cleanup has been implemented and repaid, the City will restructure its program to focus on sites throughout Lewiston, including Libbey Mill.

### **FUND STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS**

The City of Lewiston will serve as lead agency; the Maine Department of Environmental Protection as site manager; and the Development Department as fund manager. The City anticipates making three to five loans over the five years of the BCRLF Pilot.

### **LEVERAGING OTHER RESOURCES**

The Bates Mill Brownfields Redevelopment Initiative has already attracted investment from: 1) the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's Economic Development Initiative; 2) US Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grants and Section 108; 3) the US Department of Agriculture's Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program; 4) City general obligation bonds; and 5) private investment (including revenues generated from the sale of three buildings). Lewiston anticipates continuing to seek funding from these sources, among others, to leverage the BCRLF.

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*Use of BCRLF Pilot funds must be in accordance with CERCLA, and all CERCLA restrictions on use of funding also apply to BCRLF funds.*

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