



# Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilot

## State of Ohio (Coalition on behalf of the Cities of Lima and Cleveland)

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 \$250,000 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, brownfields cleanup revolving loan fund (BCRLF) programs (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

The State of Ohio Department of Development has received a BCRLF award on behalf of the Cities of Cleveland and Lima. This coalition has been formed to clean up brownfields in the two cities. Cleveland is the second largest city in the state. A recent study by Neighborhood Progress, Inc., a local non-profit, found more than 12,000 acres in the City of Cleveland to be either abandoned, idled, or underused, and hindering redevelopment. The City of Lima is approximately one-tenth the size of Cleveland. Lima's growth was closely tied to the development of the oil and gas industry in the early twentieth century. The City has seen little industrial investment in the past 20 years. Poverty and unemployment rates in both cities are well above the state average. Cleveland, an Empowerment Zone community, has areas where the poverty rate reaches 25%. Lima's overall poverty rate is 19%.

### BCRLF OBJECTIVES

The Ohio Coalition BCRLF pilot will provide a source for brownfields cleanup and serve as a model of collaborative efforts between local, state, and federal

### PILOT SNAPSHOT



**Date of Announcement:**  
April 2001

**Amount:** \$1.5 million

**BCRLF Target Area:**  
Sites within Cleveland and  
Lima

Coalition: The State of Ohio for the Cities of Cleveland and Lima

#### Contacts:

Ohio Department of Development  
Office of Urban Development  
(614) 466-4484

Region 5 Brownfields  
Coordinator  
(312) 886-3058

Visit the EPA Region 5 Brownfields web site at:  
[www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields)

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:  
[www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields)

agencies. Cleveland has targeted two areas for brownfields redevelopment: the “Forgotten Triangle” and MidTown. The Forgotten Triangle has housed heavy industry since the 1880s. The City has plans to convert the Forgotten Triangle into an urban industrial park. The MidTown project will allow Cleveland to clean up an area near some of the City’s most challenged neighborhoods.

Lima’s BCRLF plans focus on the cleanup of the Flanders/McKibbey Railyard to permit expansion of Buckeye Rubber, a major employer in the city. Lima is also seeking to encourage further development of the Liberty Commons Industrial Park.

### **FUND STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS**

The Ohio Department of Development will be the lead agency for the Ohio BCRLF Coalition. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency will serve as the site manager. The Treasurer of Ohio will serve as the fund manager.

### **LEVERAGING OTHER RESOURCES**

The Ohio Coalition BCRLF will be used in conjunction with other public and private funding sources. The objective is to provide financing for a wide range of activities extending beyond the BCRLF itself. Eligible projects may also consider using the Ohio EPA Water Pollution Control Loan Funds to support site assessment and cleanup. Other available state and federal resources include the Clean Ohio Bonds Fund, Ohio Scrap Tire Grants, and Ohio Air Quality Funds. In addition, both Cleveland and Lima plan to provide supplemental funding to support BCRLF activities. It is anticipated that Cleveland will coordinate with Cuyahoga County’s BCRLF to determine optimal funding strategies for particular properties.

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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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