

Brownfields Supplemental Assistance

Boston, MA

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, and safely clean up brownfields to promote their sustainable reuse. Brownfields are abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years, with additional funding provided for greenspace), to test assessment models and facilitate coordinated assessment and cleanup efforts at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels; and 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, a cleanup revolving loan fund program (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

EPA has selected the City of Boston to receive supplemental assistance for its Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot and additional funding for assessments at Brownfields properties to be used for greenspace purposes. Managed by the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA), the Pilot will further the work of the original Assessment Pilot by conducting assessments at four priority sites, one of which—the Modern Electroplating site—was initially investigated under the original Pilot. The Pilot will also ensure each Department of Neighborhood Development (DND)-owned site (three of the four targeted sites) is in compliance with the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP).

Since 1995, the city and the BRA have worked together and with other local organizations and community groups to develop and improve their comprehensive brownfields strategy. The original Assessment Pilot managed the public participation process, assembled site inventories, created site profiles, and developed reuse strategies for five initial targeted sites. With the BRA, the Pilot developed reuse scenarios for four of the five sites, many of which are now moving toward redevelopment. The original Pilot also forged strong partnerships with

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Boston, Massachusetts

Date of Award: April 2001

Amount: \$150,000

Amount: \$50,000

Profile: The Pilot plans to continue the efforts initiated by the Assessment Pilot by conducting assessment activities for the eventual cleanup and redevelopment of five targeted sites.

Contacts:

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Visit the EPA Region 1 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/remed/brnflid/>

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/>

local organizations, such as Alternative for Community and Environment (ACE) and Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI), in an effort to engage the community and address environmental justice issues. Using supplemental funding, the Pilot will target one of the original sites and three new sites, all of which require environmental assessments to determine contamination issues.

OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The Pilot will use EPA's supplemental assistance grant to continue efforts initiated by the original Assessment Pilot. The Pilot plans to use this funding, in its entirety, to conduct assessment activities at four targeted sites.

The Pilot has also been selected by EPA to receive funding for greenspace activities. In cooperation with the City of Boston's Environmental Services Department (ESD), the Pilot will target a fifth property (the Condor Street Beach Urban Wild project) for cleanup and redevelopment into an open space area. This area, a former industrial site adjacent to the Chelsea River, will be redeveloped into an accessible, natural area to provide the local residents with much needed coastal access and passive recreational and environmental education opportunities. The Pilot plans to use the greenspace funding to conduct additional assessments, complete cleanup and design plans, and work with the community during the redevelopment planning process.

The Pilot plans to:

- Conduct environmental assessments at the five targeted sites;
- Complete a cleanup and redevelopment plan for the Condor Street Beach Urban Wild project area; and
- Facilitate the community-led design and planning process for the Condor Street Beach Urban Wild project area.

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