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Solid Waste
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Response (5101)

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June 1999
www.epa.gov/brownfields/



Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission, VT

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

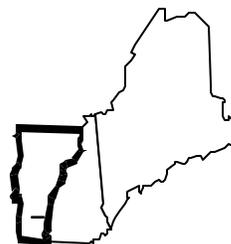
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. 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

EPA has selected the Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission for a Brownfields Pilot. The Southern Windsor County region includes ten towns in southeastern Vermont, with a total population of 24,524. The region borders the Connecticut River on the east, and includes much of the Black River watershed. For much of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the region dominated the precision machine tool manufacturing industry, earning it the nickname "Precision Valley." Other important industries included woolen, paper, and lumber mills, and munitions manufacturing.

After World War II, the machine tool industry began to decline. In the 1980s, several large companies made sharp cuts in their workforces. Between 1980 and 1990, the number of the people employed in manufacturing dropped 40 percent, jobs in communications and public utilities declined 30 percent, and every town in the region experienced a per capita decrease in income. These old manufacturing towns have been left with high unemployment rates, empty buildings, and suspected environmental contamination from a century of industrial activity.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Southern Windsor County
Regional Planning Commission,
Vermont

Date of Announcement:
June 1999

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets sites in ten towns within the "Precision Valley" part of the Black River watershed.

Contacts:

Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission (802) 674-9201	Regional Brownfields Team U.S. EPA - Region 1 (617) 573-9681
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Visit the EPA Region 1 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/remed/brnflfd/>

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/>

OBJECTIVES

The Pilot's objective is to encourage the cleanup and redevelopment of idle facilities in the downtown areas and village centers of the region's towns. The Pilot will conduct initial assessments at up to eight sites, and will target at least one site in the region for complete assessment, to remove environmental and public health threats and facilitate its cleanup and redevelopment in keeping with the Southern Windsor County regional plan. The redeveloped brownfield will help promote diversification of the region's industrial base and provide recreational access to the Connecticut River, which was recently designated as an American Heritage River.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Developing an inventory of brownfields sites in the region;
- Selecting priority sites based on criteria developed with input from the community;
- Performing Phase I assessments at up to eight targeted sites, performing Phase II assessments at a maximum of two targeted sites, and completing a Phase III assessment on at least one site; and
- Involving the community in the site identification, selection, and assessment activities.

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