



Brownfields — Workforce Development

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.

Overview

EPA, in partnership with other Federal Agencies and local environmental employment and training programs, continues to develop long-term plans for fostering workforce development in brownfields communities. EPA believes that workforce development and job training are the critical links between environmental cleanup and safe and sustainable community redevelopment. These efforts help to guarantee that brownfields cleanup and redevelopment have the trained workforce needed to revitalize contaminated properties, and that local community members have an opportunity to compete in the economic mainstream.

Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilots

In 1998, EPA launched a new element of its Brownfields Initiative to help local communities take advantage of jobs created by the assessment and cleanup of brownfields, and to facilitate the cleanup of these sites: the Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot program. The Job Training Pilots, each located within or near a Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot, are designed to train residents in communities impacted by brownfields. These skills can then be used for

future employment in the environmental field, including cleanups employing an alternative or innovative technology. The Pilots monitor the progress of trainees for at least one year as they seek employment in the environmental field.

Each Job Training Pilot is awarded up to \$200,000 over a two-year period. Colleges, universities, community job training organizations, nonprofit training centers, States, counties, municipalities, Federally recognized Indian Tribes, and U.S. Territories are all eligible for the job training grants. Since fiscal year 1998, EPA has awarded a total of 37 Job Training Pilots across the nation.

Workforce Development and Job Training Partnerships

EPA is committed to building partnerships with States and cities, and among Federal agencies to meet workforce development and job training objectives. EPA recognizes the need to promote environmental workforce training programs in brownfields communities throughout the country. In particular, efforts are focused on the creation of job opportunities in brownfields neighborhoods.

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

EPA is working with the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) to leverage job training opportunities for residents of Brownfields Pilots communities. EPA and NIEHS are working to ensure that Minority Worker Training Program grants, established to facilitate the development of minority youth worker training programs, tie closely to ongoing activities in Brownfields Pilot cities.

Department of Labor

EPA and the Department of Labor (DOL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish policies and procedures in support of the Brownfields Initiative. DOL's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) and EPA are supporting the Brownfields Pilots through their respective national and regional office staffs. This EPA/DOL effort focuses on job training and employment opportunities related to the Brownfields Initiative for local youths and adults.

Department of Veterans Affairs

EPA and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) are working on an MOU to establish policies and procedures to work together in support of brownfields efforts. It is envisioned that several national programs administered by the VA, such as the Compensated Work Therapy (CWT) programs and the Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling (VR&C) service, will coordinate with EPA's Brownfields Initiative to provide trained veterans to work in brownfields projects.

Job Development, Education, and Training Initiatives

EPA is funding and participating in job training and education efforts linked to the Brownfields Initiative.

HMTRI

EPA is working with the Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute (HMTRI), based in the Eastern Iowa Community College District, to expand environmental training and curriculum development at community colleges located near Brownfields Pilots. HMTRI hosts workshops to assist community colleges and other job training organizations from brownfields

communities in developing environmental job training programs. HMTRI also provides follow-up technical assistance to help tailor programs to specific community labor market needs. To find out more information about HMTRI, call (319) 441-4082 or refer to HMTRI's homepage:

<http://www.hmtri.org/>

HMTRI also maintains the "Brownfields—Leading to Environmental Solutions through Training" homepage. BLEST provides additional information on educational and job training opportunities, as well as job development activities associated with EPA Brownfields Pilots.

<http://ateec.kirkwood.cc.ia.us/blest/>

EPA and its partners are continuing their efforts to develop training and apprenticeship programs to ensure that the short- and long-term economic benefits of brownfields cleanup and redevelopment are shared by local communities.

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Alternatively, please use the Internet World Wide Web to access the EPA Brownfields Homepage:

<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>