

## Environmental Finance Center Network

The Environmental Finance Center (EFC) Network is a major activity of the Environmental Finance Program. The Network is a university-based program that provides environmental finance outreach services to the regulated community. The EFC Network consists of nine Centers located in eight Federal Regions throughout the United States. These Centers are located at universities and are staffed with environmental finance experts who provide analytical services to state and local governments, and small businesses.

The EFC's advise, educate, and train government officials and small businesses on alternative financing for environmental infrastructure. The Director and staff of each EFC provides technical assistance, finance education and training, analysis and publications to assist officials in finding ways to finance environmental compliance and sustainable development.

In addition to their outreach services, the EFC Directors work closely with the Environmental Financial Advisory Board (EFAB), another key activity of the Environmental Finance Program. The EFC Directors serve as expert witnesses to EFAB and assist them in their work. EFC locations and contacts are listed on the EFP web site at <http://www.epa.gov/efinpage/efc.htm>

### Selected Projects Across the United States

Since 1992, the Network has been working to promote sustainable development throughout the United States. The following is a selection of projects that best represents their talents.

- **Full Cost Pricing of Water and Sewer Services.** Small communities struggle with the challenge of providing safe drinking water and effective wastewater treatment services to the public. The Network provides communities throughout the country with low or no-cost assistance in the areas of rate setting, capital replacement financing, financial management and assessing the impact of capital investments.
- **Brownfields Remediation and Redevelopment.** EFC Network members have been involved in developing, operating and evaluating the impacts of state and local brownfield redevelopment efforts. Key features of state voluntary cleanup programs have been identified and their impacts on developer decision making examined. Network members have also been involved in training programs for potential brownfield redevelopers and financiers on how the markets and regulatory standards have been evolving.
- **Environmental Finance Curriculum Development.** A set of course materials on environmental finance, intended to bridge the gap between existing academic courses on public finance and existing training programs for government officials, has been developed and is available for delivery throughout the Network.