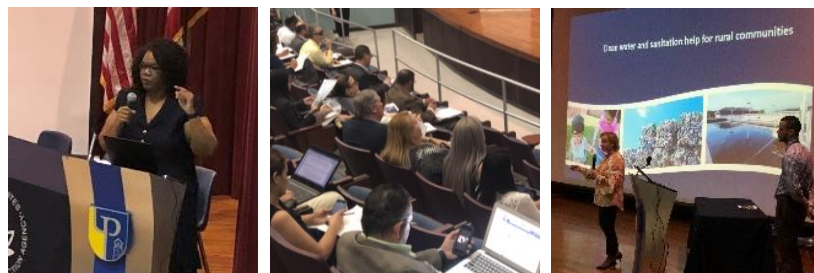




EPA Region 2 Upcoming Events for 2021

Over the past five years, Brownfields staff and the Center for Creative Land Recycling (CCLR) have conducted a series of summits in Puerto Rico. These summits, or “The Brownfields Week”, work to increase local understanding of federal and state assistance programs for land redevelopment. After Hurricanes Maria and Irma devastated the island, these summits were redesigned to focus more on redevelopment and economic recovery. The 2019 summit provided information on Federal and State recovery programs and helped to prepare stakeholders to take the next steps in their recovery process. Post event evaluations indicate that the summits are valuable for expanding and strengthening relationships with Federal and State agencies, and for increasing access to resources.

EPA Region 2 plans to expand the “Brownfields Week” into the Brownfields Awareness Month” not only to address brownfield challenges in Puerto Rico, but also for the U.S. Virgin Islands, New York and New Jersey. These summit events will be designed to provide participants with networking opportunities with state and federal agency representatives to identify resources most appropriate to meet their needs.



Upcoming National Brownfields Conference

Oklahoma City was chosen for the site of the 2021 Brownfields Conference due to the exciting brownfields redevelopment happening in the city. The site of the conference, the brand new Oklahoma City Convention Center, was itself built on a redeveloped brownfield site!

CMA is working in partnership with the EPA to deliver key aspects of the conference, including communication and outreach to potential attendees, educational programming, registration, and special events. ICMA is also organizing a conference trade show and exhibit hall as well as a sponsorship program.

The conference is also a premier stop for the private sector with a vibrant exhibit hall and other transactional activities that are catered towards companies doing the business of brownfields cleanup and redevelopment. The exhibit hall will feature federal agencies, engineering firms, developers, environmental cleanup companies, legal and financial expertise, nonprofits, and other types of organizations.

The next conference is being held Septemeber 27-30, 2021.

CONTACT US

Brownfields Section
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,
Region 2
290 Broadway, Floor 25
New York, New York 10007
www.epa.gov/brownfields

REGION 2 BROWNFIELDS STAFF CONTACT LIST

Terry Wesley, Section Chief
212 637-5027
wesley.terry@epa.gov
Schenine Mitchell,
Program Coordinator
212 637-3283
mitchell.schenine@epa.gov

SPECIALISTS

**TARGETED BROWNFIELDS
ASSESSMENT/REVOLVING LOAN**
Alison Devine
212 637-4158
devine.alison@epa.gov

**ENVIRONMENTAL WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT & JOB TRAINING**
Schenine Mitchell
212 637-3283
mitchell.schenine@epa.gov

**TRIBAL RESPONSE PROGRA AND
STATE RESPONSE PROGRAM**
John Struble
212 637-4291
struble.john@epa.gov

PROJECT MANAGERS
Yocasta De Jesus
212 637-4340
dejesus.yocasta@epa.gov

Jenny Tsolisos (Army Corps)
212 637-4349
tsolisos.jenny@epa.gov
Zolyamar Luna (CEPD office)
787 977-5844
Luna.zolyamar@epa.gov

**LAND REVITALIZATION
COORDINATOR**
Sadira Robles
212 637-4318
robles.sadira@epa.gov

REGION 2 BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM

*SERVING: NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY, PUERTO RICO,
VIRGIN ISLANDS, AND EIGHT TRIBAL NATIONS*



Brownfields Program Accomplishments and Benefits

EPA's Brownfields program measures progress and reports Brownfields accomplishments both through the history of the program and over specific periods of performance. Leveraged outcomes and benefits are tracked by Brownfields grant type including Assessment, Cleanup, and Revolving Loan Fund grants. Brownfields Program Accomplishments as of October 1, 2020:

- Properties Assessed: 32,515
- Properties Cleaned up: 2,114
- Acres Made Ready for Reuse: 132,513
- Dollars Leveraged: \$33.650B
- Jobs Leveraged: 170,724

EPA Brownfields Programs Produce Widespread Environmental and Economic Benefits.

EPA's Brownfields program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. Revitalizing brownfields creates benefits throughout the community. Through fiscal year 2019, on average, \$16.86 was leveraged for each EPA Brownfields dollar and leveraged more than 144,800 jobs nationwide.

Another study found that residential property values increased by 5-15.2 percent once a nearby brownfield was assessed or cleaned up. Initial anecdotal surveys indicate a reduction in crime in recently revitalized brownfields areas. To facilitate leveraging public resources, EPA's Brownfields Program collaborates with other EPA programs, other federal partners, and state agencies to identify and make available resources that can be used for brownfield activities.

Region 2 Program Highlights

Accomplishments from Assessment, Cleanup and Redevelopment Exchange System (ACRES) indicates that Region 2 has completed the following: (This reflects the work completed by our pilot grants, ARRA grants, CERCLA 128a grants, targeted brownfields assessments (TBA) program and current brownfields grants):

- Assessments: 1,206
- Cleanups: 62
- Dollars Leveraged: \$889 million
- Jobs Leverage: 5,367
- Acres/Properties Ready for Reuse: 945

Summary of Brownfields Grant Funding

- [Assessment Grants](#) provide funding for brownfield inventories, planning, environmental assessments, and community outreach.
- [Revolving Loan Fund \(RLF\) Grants](#) provide funding to capitalize loans that are used to clean up brownfields.
- [Cleanup Grants](#) provide funding to carry out cleanup activities at brownfields owned by the applicant.
- [Multipurpose \(MP\) Grants](#) provide funding to conduct a range of eligible assessment and cleanup activities at one or more brownfields in a target area.
- [Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training \(EWDJT\) Grants](#) provide environmental training for residents impacted by brownfields in their communities.
- [Technical Assistance, Training, and Research Grants](#) provide funding to organizations to conduct research and to provide training and technical assistance to communities to help address their brownfields challenges.
- [State and Tribal Response Program Grants](#) provide non-competitive funding to establish or enhance State and Tribal Brownfields response programs.

REGION 2 BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM

Elizabeth, NJ site slated for new residential development



A former brownfield site in Elizabeth, paving the way for a mixed-use project that will include nearly 50 new homes.

On July 2019, a developer broke ground on the latest piece of a mixed-use project in Elizabeth, where it plans to build nearly 50 new homes at the former site of vacant brownfield property.

The firm, Gonsosa Development, joined public officials to mark the next phase of construction at 200-238 South Second St. Plans call for 23 new two-family homes that will be sold at market value, as the developer and city officials seek to breathe new life into the historic neighborhood known as Frog Hollow.

The groundbreaking came around eight months after the founders of Gonsosa Development, brothers Ricardo Sosa and Alberto Goncalves, closed on the property for \$1.5 million. The developers then remediated what had been declared a brownfield with the help of a \$400,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, paving the way for the start of construction on the residential portion.

“Brownfield grants help transform contaminated, blighted properties into environmental and economical assets that improve public health and create jobs,” EPA Regional Administrator Pete Lopez said. “EPA is thrilled to have worked with our local partners in Elizabeth to revitalize the Frog Hollow neighborhood.”

The site also includes a 15,000-square-foot commercial warehouse that has already been leased to a nonmanufacturing tenant.



How to Market Your Brownfields

In October 2019 at the New York State Brownfields Roundtable Meeting, Behan Communications provided information on marketing a brownfields project.

- Every brownfields needs a champion! Make sure you have your details and critical information and be ready to promote.
 - Think like a developer.
 - Create market-facing materials and make them easily accessible.
- Time and uncertainty are the enemies of development – work to reduce these for developers.
 - Enact incentives, rezone property, identify infrastructure improvements, and consider a private forum to stimulate market awareness and interest.
- Environmental regulators can be GREAT resources and allies – ask for help and stay in touch!
 - Find people who understand the importance of redevelopment.
 - Apply for grants to further characterize or mitigate environmental issues.
- Involve the community – seek to build consensus behind a realistic reuse.
- Marketing is multi-faceted and make your property visible.

Behan reminded the audience that while brownfields are complex, the redevelopment is rewarding. They change neighborhoods and communities, they protect human health and the environment and they create jobs and investment.



REGION 2 BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM

Success! Former ABC Barrel Site – Camden, New Jersey



The City of Camden, New Jersey has a rich industrial heritage dating to the early 19th Century. The one-acre ABC Barrel site has a prime location in the historic Cooper-Grant neighborhood. The site has excellent access to roadways and public transit and is within walking distance of the major employers, including Rutgers University-Camden, Rowan University, Camden County College and the Cooper University Healthcare System.

This site is also just a few blocks from the attractions, amenities, and new office developments of the Camden Waterfront including BB&T Pavilion, Wiggins Waterfront Park, The Adventure Aquarium, Camden Children’s Garden, Battleship New Jersey and American Water’s new corporate offices.

Site History

The ABC Barrel facility was used for a variety of industrial uses dating back to at least 1885, with the last last operations conducted at the site involved refurbishing, painting and cleaning of used drums. Industry activity ceased at the site in 1987, and the City of Camden obtained the site through foreclosure. The site had historic fill extending to depths of approximately 12 feet below grade across the entire site, and had to be remediated before the property could be developed.

For the portion of the site set aside for residential reuse, the proposed remediation endorsed by the surrounding community and the municipality was to remove all of the historic fill providing for unrestricted reuse. For the portion of the site to be developed as parkland, community remediation plans called for capping.

EPA and Leveraged Funding

The ABC Barrel site has been the subject of extensive environmental remediation underwritten by the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), including three 2010 EPA Brownfield Cleanup Grants totaling \$600,000, and has received additional EPA support through the Camden Redevelopment Agency’s 2013 EPA Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund Grant. USEPA brownfield cleanup funding has also successfully leveraged more than \$500,000 in state funding from the New Jersey Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund. With over \$1 million of joint federal and state funding for remediation, the ABC Barrel site was fully cleaned and made available for badly needed housing and park space.

Site Redevelopment

The Camden Redevelopment Agency is seeking a mixed-income/market rate housing development surrounding a new public open space. This new \$4 million townhouse development will include a mix of market rate and affordable units, and will deliver attractive housing options and fill a need for quality housing. The proposed development will include a central park space in the block’s interior that incorporates green infrastructure and natural stormwater management techniques, which are essential for the City of Camden, which is one New Jersey’s Combined Sewer Service communities.

EPA GRANT RECIPIENT:
Camden Redevelopment Agency

GRANT TYPES:
2010 EPA Brownfield Cleanup Grants
2013 Revolving Loan Fund Grant

FORMER USE:
ABC Barrel Company

OTHER FORMER USES:
Groft and Priestley Linden
Worsted Mill
Consolidated Electric
Pacific Steam Laundry
Paper products
manufacturer
Bottle cap manufacturer
Manufacturer of wooden toilet seats

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Visit the EPA Brownfields website at www.epa.gov/brownfields or contact Alison Devine at devine.alison@epa.gov.