

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Brownfields 2005 Grant Fact Sheet

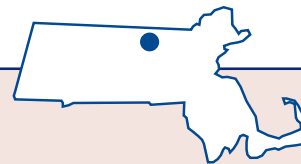
Fitchburg Redevelopment Authority, MA

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The Fitchburg Redevelopment Authority was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. The City of Fitchburg (population 39,102) lies along the banks of the Nashua River in North Central Massachusetts. For over 100 years, Fitchburg was a major manufacturing center. Today, many of the old factory buildings are abandoned, industrial lots are vacant, and residential and commercial buildings in the old industrial district are underutilized. As manufacturing jobs disappeared, new well-paying jobs have not been created to take their place. Fitchburg's poverty rate is nearly double the state rate, and the per capita income is two-thirds



Assessment Grant

New
2005

\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the Fitchburg Redevelopment Authority for a brownfields assessment grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to conduct community outreach activities, Phase I and Phase II site assessments, and cleanup planning within the City of Fitchburg's 224-acre redevelopment district.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 1 Brownfields Team
617-918-1221
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: Fitchburg Redevelopment Authority, MA
978-345-9602

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

that of the state. Many of the city's minority residents live in and around areas with high concentrations of brownfields sites. Assessment and cleanup of the blighted and underutilized downtown district are expected to revitalize the area, bringing new housing, commercial development, jobs, and greenspace to the district.