

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Brownfields 2005 Grant Fact Sheet

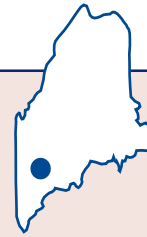
Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments, Western Maine

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 Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Androscoggin, Franklin, and Oxford Counties in western Maine (combined population 188,015) have long been dependent on industry and manufacturing for their economy. By the late 19th Century, western Maine was a manufacturing center known for shoes, textiles, pulp and paper, and wood products. Significant declines in manufacturing during the past few decades



Assessment Grant

New
2005

\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments for a brownfields assessment grant. The grant will be used to develop a comprehensive inventory of former industrial and commercial sites in the region. The inventory will be maintained on a geographic information system. Four Phase I and three Phase II site assessments will be completed.

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: Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments, ME
207-783-9186

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

precipitated severe job losses: from 1993 to 2002, manufacturing jobs declined by 27 percent. Many of the former industrial sites have ceased business, leaving environmentally compromised and contaminated sites that remain idle despite easy access to transportation and municipal services. While the causes are not yet known, Androscoggin County has the highest incidence of cancers in Maine and a higher rate of asthma than the statewide and national averages. Restoration of brownfields sites will stimulate interest in redevelopment and economic regrowth.