

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Which Petroleum Sites Are Eligible For Brownfields Grants?

For a site to be eligible, EPA or the state must make the determination that a petroleum-contaminated site¹:

- ✓ is “relatively low-risk” compared to other petroleum-contaminated sites in the state;
- ✓ has “no viable responsible party”;
- ✓ will be assessed, investigated, or cleaned up by a person not potentially liable for the contamination; and
- ✓ is not subject to a corrective action order under RCRA §9003(h).

Note: Sites where Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Trust Fund dollars have been spent are not eligible unless the applicant can demonstrate that the financial assistance provided by a Brownfields grant will protect human health and the environment and will either promote economic development or enable the creation, preservation, or addition to parks, greenspace, recreational, or non-profit uses. These “addback” provisions are detailed in the proposal guidelines.

How Do I Apply For A Brownfields Grant?

EPA publishes the proposal guidelines for the next round of Brownfields grants each year. Look for *Proposal Guidelines for Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Grants* posted at www.epa.gov/brownfields on the EPA website and at www.grants.gov.

Watch for the proposal guidelines for the FY 2007 round of Brownfields grants in fall 2006.

For further information on cleaning up and reusing old gas stations and other petroleum sites, please see: www.epa.gov/brownfields/ and www.epa.gov/oust/rags/index.htm

¹ P.L.107-118 (H.R.2869), Sec. 211(a)(39)(C).

What Are Some Of The Grants Awarded For Petroleum-Contaminated Sites?

EPA made four rounds of petroleum brownfields grant awards in 2003 (\$22.9M), 2004 (\$23.2M), 2005 (\$22.2M), and 2006 (\$21.4M) totaling approximately \$89.8 million. Examples of grants awarded in the past for petroleum-contaminated sites include but are not limited to:

The Oregon Rural and Economically-Distressed Site Assessment Initiative (Initiative) was developed to assist rural and economically-distressed communities in assessing specific brownfields sites. The petroleum portion of this Initiative has been supported by **petroleum brownfields assessment grant** funding in FY 2003 and FY 2005. Approximately 14 petroleum sites have been targeted for Phase I assessments and over nine have been completed to date. Go to http://www.deq.state.or.us/wmc/cu/rural_bf/ruralbrownfields.htm for more information.

In FY 2004 Wisconsin’s Department of Natural Resources (DNR) secured a \$1,000,000 **petroleum brownfields revolving loan fund grant** to capitalize its Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund. DNR will provide loans and subgrants to communities and tribes to support cleanup activities at applicable sites and is working with the Wisconsin Brownfields Coalition to channel funds through their Wisconsin Ready for Reuse Loan and Grants Program. For information, see <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rr/archives/pubs/RR753.pdf>.

In FY 2004 the Gila River Indian Community secured a \$200,000 **petroleum brownfields cleanup grant**. The grant will be used to clean up petroleum contamination from “relatively low-risk” leaking underground storage tanks on the St. John Mission in Komatke, AZ. The site will be redeveloped as a Diabetes Education and Resource Center. These funds complemented work that began under their FY 2002 USTfields pilot and helps demonstrate the correlation between LUST and petroleum brownfields activities.



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EPA Brownfields Grants For Old Abandoned Gas Stations And Other Petroleum Brownfields



- Assessment Grants
- Cleanup Grants
- Revolving Loan Fund Grants

What Is A Brownfield, And How Does It Affect My Community?

A brownfield is a property that contains, or may potentially contain, a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant that hinders the property's reuse. Properties contaminated by petroleum leaks from underground storage tanks (USTs) are one type of brownfield.

It is estimated that there are more than 450,000 brownfields across the U.S., the majority of which are impacted by petroleum. Many of these sites are old abandoned gas stations that blight the environmental and economic health of surrounding neighborhoods.

Cleaning up and reusing old gas station sites increases local tax bases and facilitates job growth. It also improves and protects the environment by utilizing existing infrastructure and taking development pressures off of undeveloped open land.

What Is EPA Doing About Old Abandoned Gas Station Sites?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awards Brownfields grants to local governments, states, tribes, and non-profit organizations to assess and clean up brownfields, including those impacted by petroleum contamination.

Since 2003, when petroleum-contaminated sites first became eligible for Brownfields grants, EPA has awarded a total of over \$89.8 million for the assessment and cleanup of petroleum brownfields sites.

For additional information on petroleum brownfields awards: <http://www.epa.gov/oust/rags/pbgrants.htm>.

Arizona To Clean Up And Reuse Old Gas Stations Along Historic Route 66
www.azdeq.gov/environment/ust/66/index.html

Flagstaff To Use New \$200,000 Petroleum Brownfields Grant To Assess Its Route 66 Sites
www.epa.gov/brownfields/cities/flagstaff_az.htm

What Types Of Brownfields Grants Are Available?

- **Assessment Grants** provide funding for a grant recipient to inventory, characterize, assess, and conduct planning and community involvement. Up to \$200,000 for each grant may be awarded each grant cycle. An applicant may seek a waiver of the \$200,000 limit for a site-specific assessment grant and request up to \$350,000 for a single site.

- **Cleanup Grants** provide funding to carry out cleanup activities at brownfields sites. The grant recipient must own the site by the time the grant money is given. Non-profits are only eligible for cleanup grants. Up to \$200,000 per site may be awarded each grant cycle for a total of no more than three sites per applicant.

- **Revolving Loan Fund Grants (RLF)** enable eligible entities (states, political subdivisions, and Indian tribes) and coalitions of eligible entities to capitalize a fund to make low-interest loans to carry out cleanup activities at brownfields properties. Up to 40% of a RLF grant may also be used to give out subgrants for cleanup activities at brownfields properties. Up to \$1,000,000 may be awarded for an RLF grant over five years.

Who May Apply For Brownfields Grants?

Local, state, and regional government agencies and councils, redevelopment agencies, Indian tribes, and non-profit organizations may apply for one or more grant types. Non-profits are only eligible for cleanup grants.

For information on eligibility requirements for petroleum Brownfields grants, see <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicat.htm#pg>

Ongoing Petroleum Brownfields Enhancement Activities

EPA's Office of Brownfields Cleanup and Redevelopment and Office of Underground Storage Tanks are encouraging their counterparts in state voluntary cleanup programs (VCP) and in state petroleum implementing agencies to collaborate and optimize the efficiency of petroleum brownfields eligibility determinations. One of EPA's goals involves increasing the quantity and quality of eligible petroleum sites participating in the Brownfields program. Potential assistance could include, but would not be limited to, development of:

Petroleum Eligibility Determination Guidance – To help eligible grant recipients in a state better understand the process their state will use to fulfill EPA Brownfields grant eligibility requirements. The document issued by Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality is an excellent example; see <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/waterguidance/pdf/052015.pdf>.

Interagency Agreements (IAGs) – EPA is working with several state agencies to negotiate IAGs as a means to enhance coordination between the state VCP and state petroleum implementing agencies (tanks program and state assurance funds). These IAGs provide a means to help optimize coordination to resolve jurisdictional and resource impediments as well as maximize the use of available federal and state funds.

Geographically-Aligned Pilots – Deliberations between the VCP and petroleum implementing agencies that improve internal coordination are often not properly showcased to other interested parties and eligible grant recipients. To help promote these efforts, EPA is encouraging VCP and petroleum implementing agencies to select a geographically-aligned corridor (e.g., highway, riverfront, neighborhood, etc.) within the state to test and evaluate their petroleum brownfields policy changes to further their communications and program outreach efforts.