Brownfields 2009 Cleanup Grant Fact Sheet

New England Youth Theatre, Brattleboro, VT

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders 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. In 2002, the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act was passed to help states and communities around the country cleanup and revitalize brownfields sites. Under this 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 New England Youth Theatre was selected to receive a brownfields cleanup grant. The theater is located the Town of Brattleboro (population 11,741) in Windham County. Windham County has struggled to recover from the manufacturing decline that began in the 1960s. Economic challenges in the region are reflected in the steady population decline in towns such as Brattleboro. According to current data, this decline is likely to continue. The median household income in Brattleboro is significantly lower than the county and state medians, and more than 15 percent of residents live below the poverty level. Studies indicate that there are between 76 and 150 potential brownfield sites in the town. Cleanup of the former Tri State Automotive site will reduce environmental health risks and improve the area's image. Once the site is cleaned up, the theater plans to turn it into a fully functional artists' live-work space that is expected to encourage additional site cleanup and redevelopment.

Cleanup Grant

$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the New England Youth Theatre for a brownfields cleanup grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to clean up the approximately 0.2-acre former Tri State Automotive site at 64 Elm Street in the Town of Brattleboro. The site historically was used for paper and paint manufacturing, and as a vehicle machine shop. The site building materials and soils are contaminated with metals, volatile organic compounds, and PCBs. Grant funds also will be used to record an institutional control placing use limitations on the site, and support community outreach activities.

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 (http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

EPA Region 1 Brownfields Team
(617) 918-1424
EPA Region 1 Brownfields Web site
(http://www.epa.gov/region1/bro wnfields)

Grant Recipient: New England Youth Theatre,VT
(802) 246-6398

The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

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