



Brownfields 2010 Cleanup Grant Fact Sheet **Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee, WI**

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 clean up 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 Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee (RACM) was selected to receive three brownfields cleanup grants. Milwaukee (population 604,477) was built on a foundation of robust industrial activity dominated by die cast companies, machine tool manufacturers, and foundries. During the past three decades, the decline in the city's traditional manufacturing base has left numerous vacant and underused brownfields. RACM has documented approximately 300 acres of brownfields, including 130 tax-delinquent properties. The city experienced a 97 percent increase in foreclosures between 2008 and 2009. The increased foreclosure rate and the stressed housing market have caused budget constraints for the city. The three targeted cleanup sites are in distressed neighborhoods, where from 46 to 97 percent of residents are minorities and at least 40 percent of residents live below the poverty level. Once the 21st and Garfield site is cleaned up, the city plans to redevelop it with 23 affordable homes as part of the Legacy Development project. When the 30th and North site is cleaned up, the city plans to redevelop it with a retail/mixed-use storefront and a light or commercial industrial facility. Once the North Edison Street site is cleaned up, the city plans to redevelop it with an eight-story mixed-use building, greenspace, and a riverwalk segment. Cleanup and redevelopment of these sites are expected to increase the tax base, remove blight, and create jobs.

Cleanup Grants \$600,000 for hazardous substances EPA has selected the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee for three brownfields cleanup grants. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to clean up the 21st and Garfield site at 2239 North 21st Street, 2235 West North Avenue, and 2102 West Garfield Avenue. The site has housed a bakery, roofing company, and upholstery manufacturing site and is contaminated with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, arsenic, and metals. Grant funds also will be used to clean up the two-acre 30th and North site at 3010 and 3014 West North Avenue, and 3001 West Meinecke Avenue. The site was formerly an auto repair company, engineering company, and foundry, and is contaminated with volatile organic compounds and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. Grant funds also will be used to clean up the half-acre 1027 North Edison Street site, which is contaminated with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. It was formerly used as a coal storage operation, materials yard, and parking lot. Grant funds also will be used to conduct 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 5 Brownfields Team
(312) 886-7576
EPA Region 5 Brownfields Web site
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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.