



## **Brownfields 2011 Assessment Grant Fact Sheet Cheyenne, WY**

### **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 City of Cheyenne was selected to receive a brownfields assessment coalition grant. The city's coalition partners are the Downtown Development Authority and Laramie County (combined coalition population 88,854). Located in southeastern Wyoming, Cheyenne (population 57,478) was founded by the Union Pacific Railroad, which bisected the community and served as the lifeline to the west. The railroad remains the centerpiece of downtown. The city experienced \$63 million in property damage during a 1985 storm, and much of the damage occurred in the Lower Capital Drainage Basin in the downtown area. The city is focusing on this downtown core, which contains many abandoned and underused properties. Inadequate stormwater management and potential contamination have hindered redevelopment of the downtown area. Cheyenne has lower per capita and median household incomes than the rest of Laramie County. The city's unemployment rate is higher than the national rate. Brownfield assessments are expected to identify properties critical for flood mitigation and redevelopment efforts.

### **Assessment Grant**

*\$800,000 for hazardous substances*

*\$200,000 for petroleum*

EPA has selected the City of Cheyenne for a brownfields assessment coalition grant. Community-wide hazardous substances grant funds will be used to conduct 40 Phase I environmental site assessments. Petroleum grant funds will be used to conduct 20 Phase I environmental site assessments. Hazardous substances and petroleum grant funds also will be used to conduct 22 Phase II environmental site assessments, a site inventory, cleanup planning, and community outreach activities. The focus of assessments will be the Lower Capital Drainage Basin in the city's downtown area.

### **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 8 Brownfields Team  
(303) 312-7074

EPA Region 8 Brownfields Web site  
(<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-and-land-revitalization-region-8>)

Grant Recipient: City of Cheyenne, WY  
(307) 637-6271

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.