



# Brownfields 2011 Assessment and Cleanup Grant Fact Sheet

## Newark, NJ

### 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 Newark was selected to receive two brownfields assessment grants and three brownfields cleanup grants. Located in northern New Jersey on the Passaic River, Newark (population 264,128) was the most important industrial city in the state through most of the 19th century. By the eve of the Civil War, the city had a larger percentage of its population engaged in manufacturing than any other city in the country. As manufacturing declined, the city's industrial legacy left an estimated 700 acres of brownfields. Groundwater in Newark is contaminated from numerous sites throughout the city. Almost 24 percent of residents live below the poverty level, and the unemployment rate is 15.8 percent. Approximately 68.8 percent of residents are minorities. Brownfield assessments are expected to clarify environmental concerns for potential redevelopers, catalyze redevelopment, and enable the city to focus on job creation. When the Central Steel Drum site is cleaned up, the city plans to combine the site with an adjacent property and redevelop it as a large distribution center. When the Scientific Chemical Processing site is cleaned up, the city plans to redevelop it with a warehouse or port-related facility. When the Northern New Jersey Oil site is cleaned up, the city plans to redevelop it with a light manufacturing facility. The cleanups are expected to create more than 50 jobs and generate additional tax revenues for the city.

### Assessment Grants

*\$200,000 for hazardous substances*

*\$200,000 for petroleum*

EPA has selected the City of Newark for two brownfields assessment grants. Community-wide hazardous substances grant funds will be used to perform six Phase I and two Phase II environmental site assessments. Petroleum grant funds will be used to perform 10 Phase I and two Phase II environmental site assessments. Grant funds also will be used to conduct community outreach activities. Assessments will focus on former gas stations and sites along the Passaic River and in the Port Area.

### Cleanup Grants

*\$400,000 for hazardous substances*

*\$200,000 for petroleum*

EPA has selected the City of Newark for three brownfields cleanup grants. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to clean up the 8.5-acre Central Steel Drum site at 704-738 Doremus Avenue, which is contaminated with volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds, metals, and PCBs. The site was formerly used for manufacturing printing ink and recycling chemical drums. Hazardous substances grant funds also will be used to clean up the four-acre Scientific Chemical Processing site at 411-443 Wilson Avenue. The site was used from the early 19th century until 1975 to manufacture leather, rubber products, and industrial chemicals. It is contaminated with pesticides, PCBs, and volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds. Petroleum grant funds will be used to clean up the 1.2-acre former Northern New Jersey Oil, Lot 11 site at 2078 and 2090 McCarter Highway. The site was used from 1931 to 1992 for oil storage and distribution, and auto repair.

### 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 2 Brownfields Team  
(212) 637-3260  
EPA Region 2 Brownfields Web site  
(<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-and-land-revitalization-new-jersey-new-york-puerto-rico-and-us-virgin>)

Grant Recipient: City of Newark, NJ  
Cleanup Grant:  
(973) 733-6575  
Assessment Grant:  
(973) 733-6575  
Cleanup Grant:  
(973) 733-6575  
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(973) 733-6575

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.