



## **Brownfields 2011 Assessment Grant Fact Sheet** **Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization, FL**

### **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 Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) was selected to receive a brownfields assessment coalition grant. The MPO's coalition partners are the Cities of Palmetto, Bradenton, Sarasota, Venice, and North Port, and Manatee and Sarasota Counties. Located in western Florida, the MPO will focus assessment efforts along the Tamiami Trail Scenic Highway in Sarasota and Manatee Counties (population 688,126). The highway was constructed in 1919 to connect the state's east and west coasts. The construction of interstate highways and rapid development in other parts of the state led to disinvestment in the Tamiami Trail corridor. The corridor is now littered with abandoned gas stations, dry cleaners, auto repair businesses, and other former businesses. The unemployment rates in Sarasota and Manatee Counties are higher than the state and national averages, and the median household incomes are lower than the national level. Brownfield assessments are expected to promote the cleanup of properties, leverage funds for public and private development along the corridor, and rejuvenate the tourism industry.

### **Assessment Grant**

*\$300,000 for hazardous substances*

*\$700,000 for petroleum*

EPA has selected the Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization for a brownfields assessment coalition grant. Hazardous substances and petroleum grant funds will be used to conduct 46 Phase I and 20 Phase II environmental site assessments. Grant funds also will be used to develop a site inventory, monitor institutional controls, and support community involvement 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 4 Brownfields Team  
(404) 562-8792

EPA Region 4 Brownfields Web site  
(<http://www.epa.gov/region4/waste/bf>)

Grant Recipient: Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization,  
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(941) 359-5772

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.