



# Brownfields Program Priorities FY2015



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**EPA's Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization  
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# Topics of Discussion

- Overview of EPA Grants
- FY15 Competition Plans
- Focus on AWP, RLF Program, Re-Powering America's Land
- Program Accomplishments
- Other Program Priorities & Initiatives

# EPA's Commitment to Making Meaningful Differences in Communities

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## ► *Grant Types:*

- Brownfields Area-Wide Planning
- Brownfields Assessment
- Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund
- Brownfields Cleanup
- Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training
- State and Tribal Response Program

## ► *Technical Assistance:*

- Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA)
- Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities (TAB)
- Land Revitalization Project Assistance

# 2015 Brownfields Grant Competition Schedule

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- Assessment & Cleanup Grants: Guidelines expected mid-October, proposals due mid-December
- RLF Grants: no \*new\* RLF grant competition in 2015; Supplemental Funding for \*existing\* RLF grants expected May 2015
- Environmental Workforce Development & Job Training grants: Guidelines expected mid-November, proposals due mid-January
- AWP Grants: Competition is closed, announcement expected February 2015

# Brownfields Area-Wide Planning (BF AWP)

2-year grant given to:

- Assist with community involvement, research planning and implementation strategies related to brownfields cleanup and reuse
- Focus on catalyst/high priority brownfields sites and surrounding area

Common grant-funded activities:

- Identifying community priorities
- Evaluating existing conditions
- Brownfields site reuse planning
- Developing a brownfields area-wide plan; and
- Identifying resources or leveraging opportunities to implement plan

*Goshen, IN*



*Lee, MA*

*Shreveport, LA*





# Using an Area-Wide Approach

- Multiple sites are often connected through proximity and infrastructure
- Brownfields limit the economic, environmental and social prosperity of their surroundings
  - Approaching brownfields cleanup and reuse collectively within the area can be more effective than a single site focus
  - Strategic site(s) can serve as the catalysts for area revitalization – projects focus around those opportunities
  - Area revitalization is critical to the successful long-term reuse of the brownfields

*Philadelphia, PA*



*Roanoke, VA*



# BF AWP Grant Competitions

Three rounds held so far

- FY10 = 23 pilot projects  
*16 local governments, 1 tribe, 5 non-profits, 1 regional planning commission*
- FY13 = 20 projects  
*14 local governments, 5 non-profits, 1 regional planning agency*
- Project areas included waterfronts, old industrial areas, neighborhoods, downtown districts, commercial corridors
- FY15 = competition just closed; 20 projects anticipated

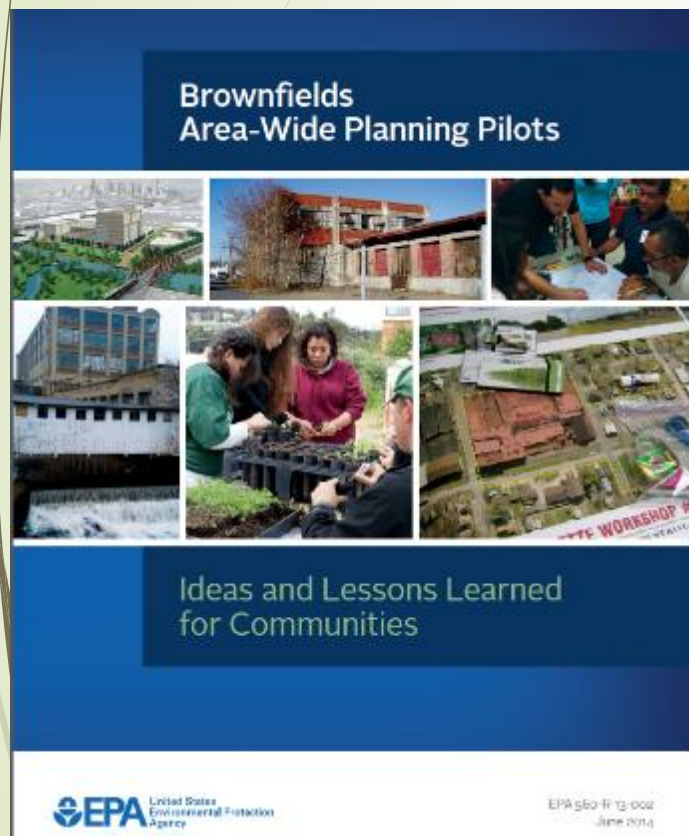
*Ironbound Community Corporation, Newark NJ*



# Ideas & Lessons Learned from the 23 Pilot Projects

## 7 Cross-Project Themes

- ▶ Manage for Successful Community Involvement
- ▶ Form and Maintain Strong and Supportive Partnerships
- ▶ Identify What Is Feasible
- ▶ Prioritize Sites and Projects
- ▶ Develop Strategies for Plan Implementation Throughout the BF AWP Process
- ▶ Maximize Resources Through Targeted Project Area Investments and Leveraging
- ▶ Maintain Strong Project Management Throughout the Project



Summary and full report at:

[http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/areawide\\_grants.htm](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/areawide_grants.htm)



# RLF Program Analysis

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- RLF Program Review:
  - For every brownfields dollar invested, RLFs leverage an average of \$15.50. \*This is significantly higher than cleanup (\$12.24) and assessment (\$11.81) grants
  - \$5.1B in Dollars Leveraged
  - Just under 15k jobs leveraged
  - 47% of our cleanups have come from RLFs
  - RLF funds are often the first dollars in to projects that otherwise wouldn't receive funding

# RE-Powering America's Land

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*Encourages renewable energy development on current and formerly contaminated lands, landfills and mine sites when such development is aligned with the community's vision for the site.*





# RE-Powering America's Land

*Projects installed nationwide*

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Wind turbines installed during remediation at abandoned steel mill



**New York**

Concentrators installed on remediated mine tailings



**New Mexico**

Wind turbines at former industrial site



**Wyoming**

Solar array installed on landfill cap



**Colorado**

Solar array at former manufactured gas plant



**Massachusetts**

Solar array at former foundry



**Illinois**

Solar geomembrane capping landfill



**Georgia**

Solar array at Superfund site

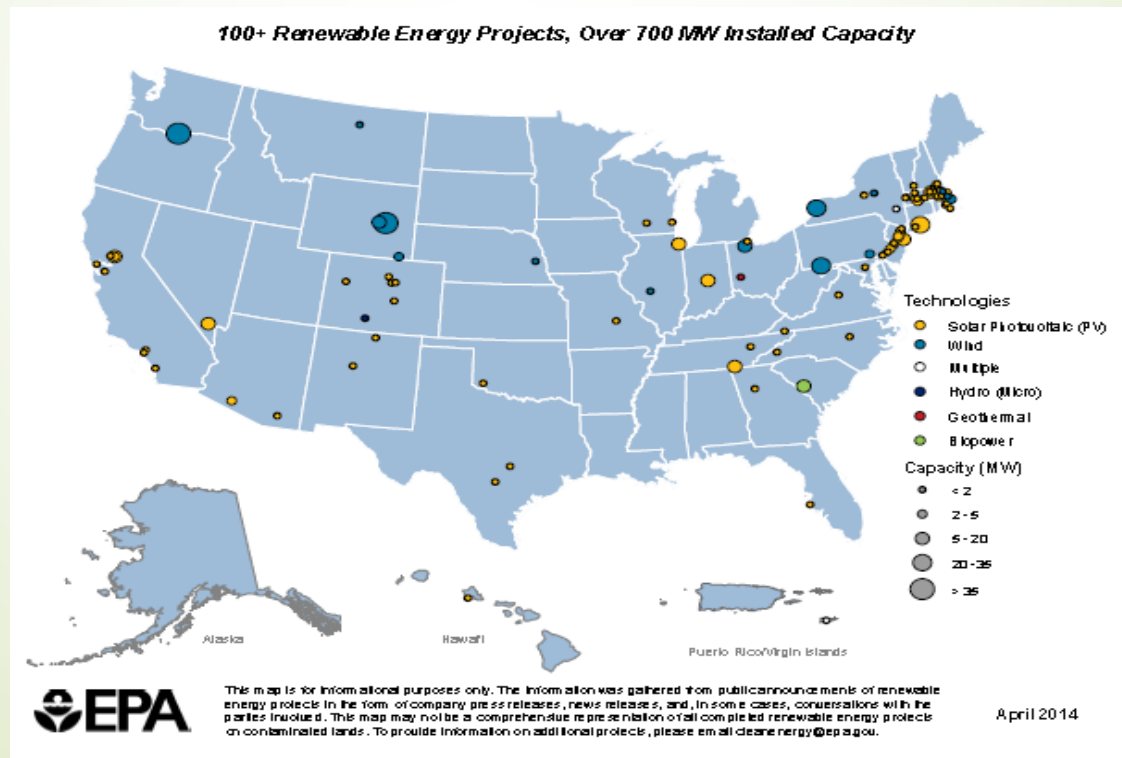


**California**

# EPA's Re-Powering America's Land Program

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- ▶ Provides technical assistance support to parties interested in siting renewable energy development on contaminated sites (brownfields, superfund sites, RCRA sites)
- ▶ More information visit: <http://www.epa.gov/oswercpa/>



# Overall EPA Accomplishments

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- Brownfields Program Accomplishments as of June, 2014 (including State and Tribal Program):
  - Properties Assessed: 21,764
  - Dollars Leveraged: \$21.3B
  - Jobs Leveraged: 97,500
- Section 128(a) State + Tribal Funding:
  - Enrolled over 40,400 properties annually (on average)
  - Completed more than 99,450 cleanups



# Benefits from Brownfields Funding

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## *Brownfields Program Evaluation*

- EPA recently conducted a national program evaluation of the outcomes, efficiencies, and economic benefits produced by Brownfields grants
- Over 8,000 Brownfield sites were evaluated
- The evaluation estimated the effect of Brownfields cleanups on property values:
  - personal property values increased 5.1% - 12.8% near Brownfield sites when cleanup is completed.
  - cleaning up a brownfield can increase overall property values within a one mile radius by \$0.5 to \$1.5 million

# Other Initiatives w/ Brownfields Participation

## 1) Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP)

- ▶ Administration-wide initiative to accelerate the resurgence of manufacturing in communities where manufacturing is envisioned as essential to economic recovery.
- ▶ EPA has coordinated roundtable meetings in several communities

## 2) RACER Trust

- ▶ RACER Trust's mission is to clean up and revitalize former GM locations. The Trust is responsible for conducting safe, effective environmental cleanups at approximately 60 former GM locations.

## 3) Partnership for Sustainable Communities (HUD-DOT-EPA Partnership)

- ▶ Partnership established six livability principles (e.g., equitable development, providing transportation choices, coordinate/leverage other federal investments)

# Assistance for small/rural communities

- 60% of proposals received were from non-urban communities. Increase over FY13 when it was 57%.
- 44% of those were 10k pop or less.
- Recommended funding 63% non-urban and 37% urban – commensurate w/ what we received.
- Micro-community success rate of 31% - commensurate w/ our overall success rate of 30%.
- Other assistance for small/rural communities:
  - Provide technical assistance in proposal reviews through our TAB providers
  - TBAs for those not successful or without the capacity to manage a grant
  - EPA outreach/Land Revitalization assistance

# New Training, Research, Technical Assistance Grants

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- ▶ **Council of Development Finance Agencies** (\$999k, 5 years)
  - ▶ Provide direct technical assistance through workshops, project marketplaces and project response teams to identify financing options for brownfields projects
  
- ▶ **Metropolitan Institute at Virginia Tech** (\$1 M, 5 years)
  - ▶ Develop and pilot test a “Community Benefits Calculator”
  
- ▶ **Groundwork USA** (\$928k, 5 years)
  - ▶ Provide direct technical assistance to low-income communities, w/ focus on BF AWP grantees, to integrate community involvement in the planning processes for brownfields reuses, including equitable development strategies.
  
- ▶ **Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute (HMTRI)** (\$998k, 5 years)
  - ▶ Provide direct technical assistance to existing and potential Brownfields Job Training grantees with peer-to-peer networking and trainings





**Brownfields 2015**  
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES START HERE

**SEPA**  
Sustainable Environmental Policy Association

**ICMA**  
Institute of City and County Managers

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Thank You

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