

WV Brownfields Post



In 2005, the West Virginia State Legislature recognized the lost economic and social value in abandoned contaminated lands or “brownfields.” The Legislature created the Northern and Southern Brownfields Assistance Centers to work with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection to support community efforts to turn these brownfields into productive land again.

The Northern West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center, housed at West Virginia University’s Water Research Institute, serves the State’s northern 33 Counties while the Brownfields Assistance Center at Marshall University, housed within the Center for Environmental, Geotechnical, and Applied Sciences, serves the southern 22 Counties.

Many small communities in rural West Virginia do not have the staff or technical expertise to undertake brownfields redevelopment projects on their own. The two Assistance Centers work collaboratively to empower communities to plan and implement brownfields redevelopment projects.

Examples of current projects include;

A former brickyard on 26 acres in Barboursville, WV, abandoned since the 1970’s, is nearing completion of an EPA clean-up grant phase. Stacks and related structures have been removed, and the site is making its way through the WV Voluntary Remediation Program. Future site usage plans include light industry, residential, and green space development.

The former Quality Glass Factory, which adjoins the Monongahela River, residential property, and a heavily used recreation trail, received \$200,000 in EPA Clean-up funds to address heavy metals, asbestos and volatile organic compounds. The site is slated to be a trailhead, and public river access for small boats.

Fostoria Glass Site: This 7 acre site in downtown Moundsville has environmental impacts from 100 years
(See “Brownfields Projects” on Page 4)

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2010 FOCUS WV BROWNFIELDS

Privately Funded FOCUS Program Expands Statewide for 2010

West Virginia University and Marshall University are joining forces to help communities throughout the Mountain State redevelop blighted former industrial sites known as brownfields.

Funded by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation the *Foundation for Overcoming Challenges and Utilizing Strengths* (FOCUS) West Virginia Brownfields Program seeks communities that would like to apply for up to \$5,000 in assistance to redevelop their brownfield sites.

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The former railroad depot in Webster Springs is being assessed to determine its future possibilities, which may include a museum and recreational park.

Land Use Master Plan Workshop



Office of Coalfield Community Development

December 9, 2009

Bridgeport Conference Center
10 AM to 3 PM

Lunch Included

Sponsored by:

West Virginia Division of Energy
Office of Coalfield Community Development
West Virginia Community Development Hub
Northern West Virginia
Brownfields Assistance Center

Legislation enacted in 2009 requires that each county with surface mining operations develop a Land Use Master Plan that incorporates post-mining land use needs. This Plan must be approved by the Office of Coalfield Community Development. Counties are also required to update and resubmit these Plans every 3 years to the Office.

The goal of this workshop is to help Counties understand this mandate, and aid them in the development or revision of these plans.

This is an important opportunity to get first-hand advice and answers to your questions about what is being asked of Counties in West Virginia regarding this legislation.

For more information or to make reservations, contact:

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Northern WV Brownfields Assistance Center
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or (304) 293-2867 x 5459

2010 FOCUS WV BROWNFIELDS



Foundation for **Overcoming Challenges** and **Utilizing Strengths**
The FOCUS West Virginia Brownfields Program provides up to \$5,000 plus site redevelopment support to spur the completion of community-based brownfields projects throughout West Virginia.

ELIGIBILITY

Do you have an underutilized or abandoned site in your community with real or perceived environmental barriers to redevelopment?

Are you a unit of local government or non profit organization?

Examples of Eligible Uses for the Grant:

- Researching property ownership and environmental concerns
- Community workshops to create a vision and facilitate site reuse
- Developing site-specific business plans
- Events to encourage private and public investment

ONLINE / CONFERENCE CALL TRAINING

December 1 & 3, 2009 at 12 noon

- Overview of FOCUS program
- Review of proposal guidelines
- Examples of projects
- General Q & A's

RSVP to focuswv@mail.wvu.edu, or call (304) 293-2867, ext. 5447

Applications due December 18, 2009



(FOCUS, continued from page 1)

The program began in 2009 and originally focused on sites in northern West Virginia. "We are pleased that this successful program has expanded to include all of West Virginia. Development professionals across the state will now be able to tap into the funding opportunities and technical assistance that the FOCUS WV Brownfields Program provides," George Carico, program coordinator for the WV Brownfields Assistance Center at Marshall University said.

The FOCUS WV Brownfields program provides financial assistance to communities in the form of small grants, and also helps eligible communities apply for assistance from other sources. According to Patrick Kirby, director of the Northern WV Brownfields Assistance Center, communities can use the program's resources to better position themselves to compete for federal redevelopment funds, and to help bring additional resources and expertise to West Virginia.

More important, the program, "offers communities a starting point to create a plan of action to turn community eyesores into assets," Kirby said.

2009 West Virginia Brownfields Conference ~ Re-Energizing Communities



Over 200 Attend Annual Gathering \$60,000 in Grants Awarded

The West Virginia Brownfields Conference for 2009 was held in Morgantown at the Waterfront Place Hotel in September. This annual event jointly hosted by the State's two Brownfields Assistance Centers was the most successful such event to date.

Over 200 people attended the event eclipsing previous year's attendance. We are grateful to our co-hosts, the WV Department of Environmental Protection, US Environmental Protection Agency, Air & Waste Management Association, and the West Virginia Development Office. Twelve concurrent sessions were framed by Plenary sessions featuring West Virginia Secretary of Commerce, Kelley Goes, and Mary Hunt-Lieving from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Especially successful this year was the "Bring your Own Brownfield (BYOB) Workshop where a panel of development

specialists reviewed and provided tips and advice for projects submitted by West Virginia Communities.

During a lunchtime ceremony, five 2009 FOCUS WV Brownfields projects were awarded additional funding of \$12,000 each for Stage II: Site Design & Marketing Implementation. Stage I of the FOCUS WV program granted the 15 communities \$5,000 each to help cultivate a redevelopment vision for brownfield properties of strategic community interest. The Stage II grants will assist the award winners in implementing their plans to revitalize brownfields in their communities.

Plans are already being made for the 2010 State Brownfields Conference, so look for details about dates and location soon. All Conference presentations as well as video of the event are posted on our website at www.wvbrownfields.org.

Proposed Library on a Landfill Project Wins Green Design Challenge

The Shepherdstown Public Library is researching the possibility of reclaiming a 4.5 acre brownfield (i.e., the old municipal dump) and turning it into a green space with walking trails and native plantings surrounding a new, green library.

The Library submitted their idea to the Library Journal's Design Institute East "Going Green" Challenge. The Shepherdstown Project was selected. On May 8th, HB&M Architects provided technical support and design solutions for the project during the Design Institute Event in Arlington, VA. This is a great example of leveraging resources. Congratulations Shepherdstown!



Sustainable Energy Parks

The Northern West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center recently received a \$600,000 EPA grant to help identify mine-scarred lands that are suitable for redevelopment into biofuels and other alternative energy production.

The funds will be used to provide technical assistance to rural Appalachian communities to identify potential energy production sites called Sustainable Energy Parks. These parks will promote local economies and reduce or minimize greenhouse gases through carbon sequestration and promote renewable energy technologies.

The grant is one of 10 EPA grants awarded nationwide this year for brownfields training, research, and technical assistance projects. These projects explore new and innovative ideas in the areas of human health, environmental protection, sustainable development, and equitable development.

West Virginia Brownfields Partnerships

West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center at Marshall University

Located in Huntington, the West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center at Marshall University is housed in The Center for Environmental, Geotechnical, and Applied Sciences.



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WV Department of Environmental Protection



The WVDEP manages the remediation of lands affected by environmental contamination under the Division of Land Restoration. The Office of

Environmental Remediation oversees the State's Voluntary Remediation Program, which helps property owners identify and address potential contamination of brownfield property.

Northern West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center

The Northern West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center is a program of the West Virginia Water Research Institute at WVU's National Research Center for Coal and Energy.



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West Virginia Development Office (WVDO)



As the State's chief economic and community development agency, the WVDO improves the quality of life for all West Virginians

by strengthening the State's communities and growing its economy to expand, retain and create more and better jobs.

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of glass-making. A \$200,000 EPA clean-up grant is helping to address the asbestos, heavy metals, and soil contaminants onsite. The vision for re-use includes an artisan center and commercial shops in this heavily traveled area.

The Adamston-Flat Glass Factory Site is located in Clarksburg, WV. This 5.6 acre site contained a glass factory from 1910 through 1983. The site is currently being cleaned up by the city through multiple funding sources. Situated in a residential neighborhood with easy access to US-Route 50 make is an optimal location for commercial development.

Four Targeted Brownfield Assessments are being conducted by EPA Region III's environmental service contractors, including; a former landfill adjacent to Krodell Park in Point Pleasant being assessed for future city park

expansion plans; a former High School building in Ansted with plans including relocation of city offices, establishment of a community center, and small business center; a former automobile dealership in Mount Hope which has future plans by the National Coal Heritage Authority to include a historical coal mining museum and office space and; a former railroad depot in Webster Springs with future use plans including a museum and recreational park.

City of Huntington, WV - EPA assessment - Conducting initial site inventory activities reviewing over 100 properties with abandoned structures and/or vacant lots. Preliminary meetings have been held with the Huntington Habitat for Humanity Chapter, with plans for several now abandoned/vacant properties to be ultimately reused for Habitat for Humanity Housing.