

# NC BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM



## Summer 2022 Newsletter



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## About Us

The Brownfields Program in the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) works with prospective developers and communities to overcome barriers associated with redeveloping abandoned, idled or underused properties with potential environmental contamination – known as brownfield sites. Through the program, these brownfields sites are put back into productive reuse for the benefit of the community.

The Brownfields Program offers liability protection to prospective developers and guidance for safe redevelopment. In a Brownfields Agreement, prospective developers are offered a covenant-not-to-sue if they agree to perform the actions deemed necessary by the NCDEQ to make the property suitable for its intended use. The Brownfields Program has completed more than 650 Brownfield Agreements since it began in 1997.

The North Carolina program is separate from the Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfields Program, which provides funding to states and municipalities through grants for site-specific assessment and cleanup work. The N.C. Brownfields Program works closely with EPA and municipal grantees during this process.



## Upcoming Events

- September 28-29: EPA New Grantee Meeting, Charlotte North Carolina. Stay tuned for additional details
- October 25-27: [NC SWANA Fall Conference](#)

## Program News

### Brownfields Outreach Intern

Since 2021, the DEQ Brownfields Program has hosted summer interns with a focus on community outreach and engagement. This year's intern, Lauren Fleming, will be graduating soon from North Carolina State University with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science. She coordinated engagement efforts such as creating and distributing the 2022 EPA Grantee Survey, updating the Program's community contacts, and assisting with preparations for the Fall 2022 Multipurpose, Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup (MARC) grant. Thanks for your hard work, Lauren!

### 2022 Virginia Brownfields Conference

The 2022 Virginia Brownfields Conference took place June 22-23 in St. Paul and Norton, Virginia. Speakers shared information on brownfields development, community resources, funding opportunities, and downtown revitalization projects. Staff from the N.C. Brownfields Program participated on the Central Appalachian Brownfields Innovation Network (CABIN) All-States Panel. CABIN consists of partner agencies throughout Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia that facilitate the redevelopment of brownfield sites and formerly mined lands. Representatives from each state shared how their brownfields programs operate and highlighted unique brownfields projects that have been completed with their assistance.

## Online Resources

[Program Information](#): provides information about the program's history and a brief overview of Brownfields Agreements

[Brownfields FAQ](#): frequently asked questions about benefits, properties, eligibility, and more

[Brownfields Program Statutes](#): learn about the Brownfields Property Reuse Act and find additional guidance documents

[Site Locator Tool](#): interactive mapping system allows users to search for brownfields properties documented by the NCDEQ Division of Waste Management

[Brownfields Contact Information](#): Provides name, title, phone number, and email addresses of N.C. Brownfields Program staff

## Program News *(continued)*

### Technical Assistance Grant

The EPA administers Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs), which provide funding (up to \$20,000) to community groups to assist in advancing redevelopment goals not covered by environmental grant funding, such as master planning activities or feasibility studies.

The N.C. Brownfields Program applied for a TAG in fall 2021 on behalf of the Town of Franklin which will be used for additional planning. The Nikwasi Mound – a spiritual, cultural and ceremonial center for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians – lies in the Town of Franklin. Funding will be coupled with a previously completed master plan to transform the area into a cultural tourism destination.

Does your community have a project that could benefit from a TAG grant? [Get in touch!](#)

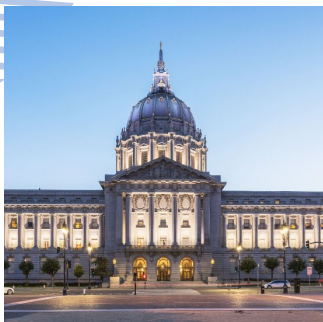


### DEQ Awarded MARC Grant from EPA

NCDEQ's Brownfields Program was recently awarded a Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes from EPA's Multipurpose, Assessment, RLF, and Cleanup (MARC) grant program. This funding will be used in coordination with partner communities for revitalization, redevelopment, and increasing tax revenues on priority sites in disadvantaged areas. Most of the funding will go toward environmental assessments and completion of Brownfields Agreements to kickstart these projects.

MARC grant funding will promote awareness and understanding of culturally significant sites, help identify and address environmental justice concerns, increase climate resiliency, and build investment within partner communities.

Community dynamics, need, and public benefit will be considered in selection of priority sites. Learn more about the EPA grant [award amounts and deadlines](#). If your community has a project in mind, [contact the N.C. Brownfields Program](#).



### Infrastructure Law Grant

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, signed on November 15, 2021, allocated \$1.5 billion to the EPA's Brownfields Program. DEQ has applied for additional funds through this opportunity to aid in Brownfields project management activities.

# Additional Resources for Communities

## Community MARC Grant

Communities can apply to receive funding from the EPA's Brownfields Program. The following grants are offered:

- [Multipurpose Grants](#): provide funding to conduct a range of eligible assessment and cleanup activities at one or more brownfield sites in a target area
- [Assessment Grants](#): provide funding for brownfield planning, environmental assessments, and community outreach
- [Revolving Loan Fund Grants](#): provide funding to capitalize loans that are used to clean up brownfield sites
- [Cleanup Grants](#): provide funding to conduct a range of eligible assessment and cleanup activities at one or more brownfield sites in a target area

Find more [MARC Grant Application Resources](#) on the EPA's Brownfields Program website.

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## ICMA Services

The [International City/County Management Association](#) (ICMA) is currently the EPA's Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities provider for Region 4. Local governments, community-based organizations and other stakeholders can access free technical assistance to help create a successful system of brownfield redevelopment.

As a non-profit organization serving local government, ICMA also offers technical assistance, professional development, research, publications, data and information, and training to city, town, and county administrative officers, their staff, and other worldwide organizations.

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## University of North Carolina's DFI

The [Development Finance Initiative \(DFI\)](#) at the UNC School of Government provides specialized finance and development expertise to local governments to attract private investment for projects, including sites where redevelopment has been difficult in the past. DFI partners with communities on building reuse and downtown revitalization, community and neighborhood development, economic development, and more. Services include:

- Feasibility assessment of distressed properties;
- Site identification;
- Advising on public-private partnerships; and
- Assistance with pre-development and much [more!](#)

## How Can We Help?

Local municipalities are eligible for certain assistance through the EPA's Brownfields Program. The N.C. Brownfields Program staff can assist with the grant application process, grant sourcing, or general environmental concerns. If interested, please [contact](#) the staff for more information. Lastly, a survey was recently sent out requesting feedback to improve the Program's community outreach and engagement efforts. Your suggestions and recommendations are always welcome.