



▲ Vernonia Oregon utilized an EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant to assist with the relocation of some City facilities from the floodplain



▲ The City of San Francisco transformed an abandoned boat maintenance facility into a regional park. Cleanup included re-engineering and vegetation of the shoreline to better protect residents from sea level rise and storm surge.



▲ The Coeur d'Alene Tribe & City of Plummer Idaho conducted extensive community outreach and secured both EPA Land Revitalization funding and a Community Change Grant for stream restoration, stormwater capture, and open space creation.

Brownfield Funding for Disaster Response



EPA Brownfield grants can help states and local governments, Tribes, and nonprofits with disaster mitigation, recovery, and response. Incorporating pre- and post-disaster activities into a brownfield grant work plan can help your community fund sustainable, resilient infrastructure.

CCLR provides technical assistance for communities with brownfields. Schedule a meeting to explore how a brownfield grant, or other EPA and state resources, can work for you.



Work Plans Usually Include:

Brownfield Inventory

Identifies underutilized sites with real or perceived contamination. An inventory helps communities prioritize sites for environmental site assessments, cleanup and reuse.

Community Outreach

Requires working or advisory committees, and coordinating with community stakeholders and subject matter experts in implementing the grant work plan.

Reuse and Cleanup Planning

Involves referencing or creating municipal, regional or state plans to address land use and zoning, economic development, resiliency and sustainability, housing plans, or other end-uses on prioritized sites.

Environmental Site Assessments and/or Remediation

Involves sampling, testing and any necessary remediation if tests reveal contamination.

Budget and Leveraging Funds

The most common funds that are leveraged for brownfields reuse projects are for: affordable housing, parks, trails, conservation and open space, economic development and infrastructure.

PLANNING

An inventory can combine brownfield criteria with data on susceptibility to damage from natural disasters and/or are well positioned to serve as solutions. Provide to first responders so they are informed of potential hazards during disasters.

Brownfield Inventory

Preemptive outreach can ensure a community-supported recovery plan is in place before disaster strikes. Developing common goals and response plans removes complex decision making from emotional, potentially chaotic response scenarios.

Community Outreach

Brownfield sites can be reused to protect your community from disasters. Sites redeveloped as open space can serve as a vegetated fire break, or stormwater catchment to prevent flooding, while coastal sites can serve as a buffer from sea level rise and/or storm surge.

Reuse and Cleanup Planning

Natural disasters, such as fires and floods can mobilize and spread contamination. Remediating sites before disaster strikes reduces regional environmental concerns post-disaster.

Assessments/ Remediation

Brownfield grant planning activities can be used to identify additional funding streams to assist with disaster recovery.

Budget and Leveraging Funds

If sites with known/suspected contamination are impacted by disaster, their existing and potential future dangers will be known to assist with effective recovery and sensible rebuilding.

Involving the community in planning and recovery can ensure priorities and plans meet community needs. Incorporate conflict resolution and mediation to resolve issues that may arise during post-disaster response.

Disasters are often exacerbated by the built environment. Response should incorporate the identification of a community's vulnerability to natural disasters and extreme weather events and solutions brownfields can provide to mitigate risks in the future.

Allows for triage in a disaster scenario, focusing extra recovery efforts on sites with known or suspected contamination. Inform disaster recovery teams of known/suspected contamination to protect health.

Utilizing brownfield funding for portions of the recovery process can free up general funds to be used elsewhere. Brownfield funding can be used to assess contamination, cleanup sites with known contamination and planning for rebuilding.

RESPONSE