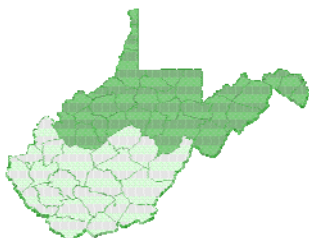


# Northern West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center

## 2007 4th Quarter Report

Publication Date:  
June 26, 2007



Serving the Northern 33  
counties of West Virginia

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## \$400,000 IN BROWNFIELDS GRANTS AWARDED TO NORTHERN WEST VIRGINIA

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded Brownfields Clean-up grants to revitalize former industrial and agribusiness sites in northern West Virginia. With the help of the Northern West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center (NBAC) at West Virginia University, Monongalia and Jefferson counties were awarded \$400,000 in grants to clean up contaminated property for reuse.

The two project sites are the former Quality Glass Plant site in the Town of Van Voorhis, Monongalia County in which hazardous substance grant funds will be used to clean up heavy metals and other contaminants on the 3.1 acre site which was used for glass manufacturing from the 1920s to the 1980s. The clean up of the 43 acre

Sandy Ridge Orchard site in Jefferson County will involve the remediation of arsenic and pesticides associated with the former apple orchard. Grant funds will also be used to implement engineering and institutional controls and support community outreach activities.

The Quality Glass clean-up is a result of collaboration between the Monongalia County Commission, the landowners, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP), and NBAC. The Sandy Ridge Orchard clean-up is a result of the cooperation of the Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Commission, the landowner, WVDEP, NBAC, and local recreational groups.

Patrick Kirby, manager of NBAC, affirmed that "the Northern WV

Brownfields Assistance Center at WVU will continue to work with the counties to assist in the implementation of the grants and the revitalization of the sites."

Four grants in total were awarded to West Virginia. The City of Nitro was awarded hazardous material and petroleum community-wide assessment grants. West Virginia received over 25% of the EPA brownfields grant funding awarded to the Mid-Atlantic region.



Quality Glass  
Monongalia County, WV

## 35 Trained Through Brownfields Job Training Program

Environmental Jobs for WV Program trained thirty-five participants, who successfully completed almost 2000 hours of environmental training resulting in the award of over 100 individual environmental training certifications. The program is funded through a \$161,000

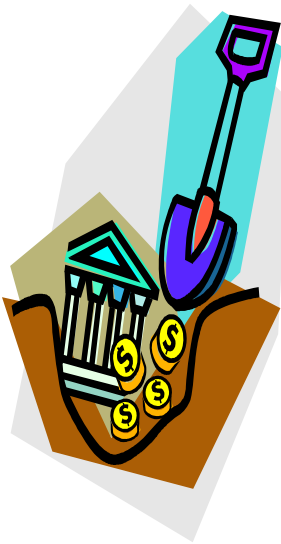
EPA Brownfields Job Training grant.

Participation and completion rates were excellent, and the instructors were given very positive formal and informal reviews. A job fair was held in conjunction with the certificate ceremony. A webpage has

been developed for the job training program on the NBAC website which features regular updates, links to registration materials, course descriptions, and our course calendar.

Additional training is currently being planned for the Fall.

## Recycling Real Estate Workshop Held for Bankers



The Northern WV Brownfields Assistance Center partnered with the Southern WV Brownfields Assistance Center to host “Recycling Real Estate: Lending Opportunities for Bankers” on April 3, 2007 at Stonewall Jackson Resort.

The workshop engaged the banking community in a discussion about environmental risk policy and lending practices related to brownfields sites. Three perspectives were used to examine how property contamination perceived or real could impact the financing of a project.

Denise Chamberlain, the Director of Risk Management for ARCADIS and formerly a Deputy Secretary with Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, as well as legal counsel for Mellon Bank provided insight into many successful and profitable brownfields projects. Ms. Chamberlain drew from her legal and banking experience to answer questions about the role of banks, deal structuring, and liability issues.

Mark Anderson, a Senior Bank Examiner for the WV Division of Banking, facilitated a productive dialogue on how to mitigate potential environmental liability. Mr. Anderson instigated a lively discussion on the information and priority gap between bankers, bank regulators, and environmental concerns. The banker perspective that was illustrated through Mr. Anderson’s presentation was significant to understanding brownfields development in West Virginia.

Ken Ellison, Director of the Division of Land Restoration in the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP), used the numerous brownfields redevelopment successes in WV to demonstrate how the risk is managed through the state voluntary remediation program. The regulatory perspective provided avenues to pursue brownfields opportunities.

The Brownfields Assistance Centers are pursuing suggestions and recommendations, made by the bankers, on how to further engage lending institutions.

“Brownfields are real properties, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant”  
US EPA

## WV Brownfields Grantees Network Workshop

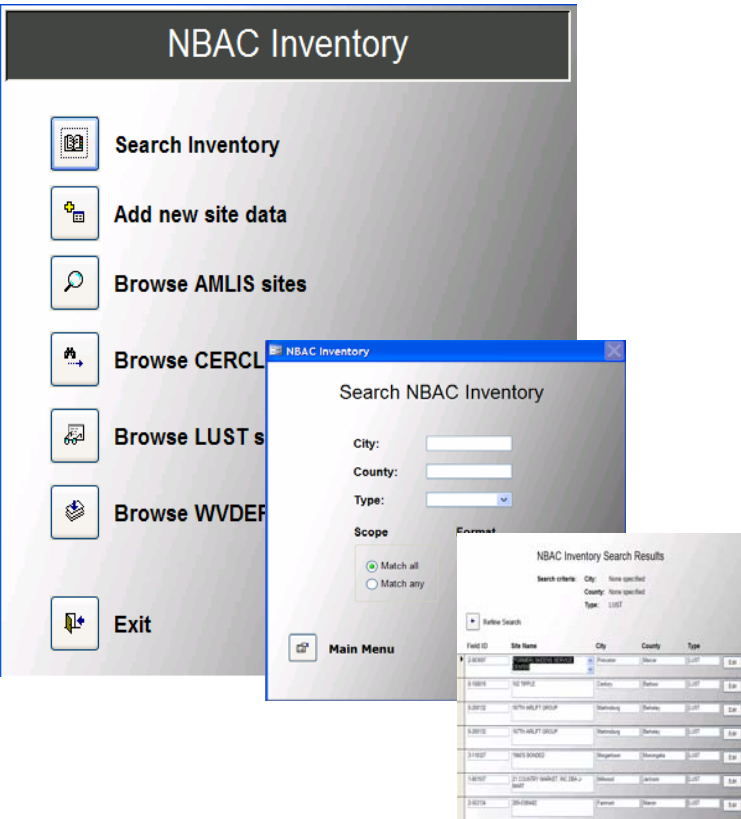
The Annual West Virginia Brownfields EPA Grantee Workshop was held on May 23, 2007 for recipients of EPA Brownfields Grants. The meeting took place at the Days Inn in Clarksburg, WV and was sponsored by The National Institute for Chemical Studies (NICS) and the West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Centers. In this venue, previous grant recipients were able to

share valuable information with new grantees about the brownfields assessment and remediation process, and to talk about hurdles they have encountered during their grant experience.

EPA Region 3 Brownfields Coordinators provided guidance to new recipients on cooperative agreements; in addition they entertained questions from all while noting suggestions from previous grant recipients. The WVDEP Division of Land Restoration discussed how the state voluntary remediation program fits into federally funded brownfields projects, and the WV Development Office offered information on additional state funding sources for projects while detailing their successful Main Street Redevelopment Program.

Communities who received grants and took part in the workshop included WV Region 11 & Region 3 Planning & Development Councils, Charles Town, Charleston, Clarksburg, Fairmont, Wheeling, Friends of Deckers Creek, Jefferson County, Monongalia County, and Wyoming County.





## INVENTORY UPDATE

The Northern WV Brownfields Assistance Center is working in conjunction with the Southern WV Brownfields Assistance Center to develop a database of brownfields sites in West Virginia.

The inventory currently consists of a compilation of sites that are listed in existing public databases, specifically sites that have received EPA Brownfields Grants and those either: 1) under environmental enforcement actions or 2) enrolled in a cleanup program. These state and federal sources include: WVDEP's Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP), WVDEP's Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) program, US Office of Surface Mining's (OSM) Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System (AMLIS), and EPA's National Priorities List (NPL).

The inventory is in the process of being updated to include sites of interest, and adjustments are being made so that the inventory can be easily updated and web accessible. Additional data on the inventory sites is also being collected to provide more information to potential purchasers. The inventory is a working document with an anticipated public release date of September.

## ALTERNATIVE ENERGY INITIATIVE

West Virginia is currently developing plans to restore thousands of acres of abandoned mine-scarred lands over the next 15 years. Our state has the opportunity to turn these rural mine scarred lands into an engine of economic activity that is based on improving air, land, and water quality. The WV Brownfields Assistance Center is initiating efforts in collaboration with WVDEP to promote public and private investment in industrial brownfields and abandoned mine lands for the production of alternative energy and sequestration of carbon emissions.

With this effort, WV joins neighboring coal-producing states like Pennsylvania and Kentucky in promoting the production of

alternative energy for stronger state and local economies. Coal waste reuse, wind power, biofuel production, and hydropower are among the ways that our land resources can be used to produce valuable and sustainable alternative energy. Reclaiming abandoned mine lands with certain tree species is already being shown in research to have the potential to generate valuable carbon sequestration credits (which mean real revenues for local landowners).

Coal mining has significantly contributed to our nation's industrial revolution and the economic wealth for our state, but pre-regulation and pre-1977 mining activity also left an expensive environmental

legacy for the people of West Virginia. Congress has recognized this and recently allocated \$987 million of federal funds to WV to restore these former industrial sites over the next 15 years. *It is up to all of us to use that funding in a manner that promotes sustainable economic development for the state along with the environmental restoration.*

Brownfields funding and redevelopment is not the sole answer to restoring mine-scarred lands, but part of a "bigger picture" solution for revitalization of land and rural economies.

This article and other resources can be found on our website:

[www.wvbrownfields.org](http://www.wvbrownfields.org)

***Mine Scarred Lands: (MSL) are lands, associated waters, and surrounding watersheds where extraction, beneficiation, or processing of ores and minerals (including coal) has occurred.***

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Hancock Hardy Harrison Jackson Jefferson Lewis Marion Marshall

***Transforming Today's Liabilities  
Into Tomorrow's Assets***

Mineral Monongalia Morgan Ohio Pendleton Pleasants Preston  
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[www.wvbrownfields.com](http://www.wvbrownfields.com)

**Tuesday  
September  
25**



**Building on the Past...for the Future!**  
**Building Investment, Building Jobs, Building Communities**

**2007 West Virginia  
Brownfields Conference**

**The Bridgeport Convention Center  
Bridgeport, WV  
Just off I-79 Exit 124 (Jerry Dove Drive)**

Bringing together community leaders, technical experts, and business leaders to restore property, and revitalize communities.

Business, community and technical tracks have been developed to cover basic to advanced topic areas including brownfields basics, funding sources, community visioning, approaches to debt structuring, risk management, case studies, and technical courses.

**Cost:**

- ◆ \$225-Regular Registration\*
- ◆ \$75-Nonprofits/Government
- ◆ \$20-Students

\* Includes one year membership/renewal in AWMA

**Contact:**

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***Online Registration begins July 9***  
**[www.wvbrownfields.com](http://www.wvbrownfields.com)**

\*LRS and Community Development Credits have been applied for.