

WV BROWNFIELDS POST

Northern West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center
www.wvbrownfields.org

WE WON!

EPA Awards \$1 Million to West Virginia Projects

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded a total of \$1 million to three West Virginia communities and the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) to assess, clean up and revitalize former industrial and commercial sites. These grants will help turn problem properties, known as “brownfields,” into productive community uses. The Northern West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center (NBAC) at West Virginia University (WVU) has been helping these communities find funding sources and address the challenges associated with these sites.

Funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 have been awarded to the city of Moundsville (\$200,000) to clean up the Fostoria Glass Plant site where buildings and soil are contaminated; and to the Preston County Economic Development Authority (\$200,000) to help assess properties impacted by acid mine drainage and erosion from timber operations.

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“These communities have worked hard on their redevelopment visions. This funding will help move their communities to the next stage of revitalization.” Patrick Kirby, Director of NBAC

The EPA is providing general funds from its brownfields program to the Brooke-Hancock Regional Planning and Development Council (\$400,000) to assess brownfields properties in the former nationally recognized steel manufacturing area; and to the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (\$200,000) to assess hazardous materials brownfield sites with a focus on rural areas such as Ritchie County.

Project Profile: Vision to Action Flex-E Grant

On April 29th, the Brooke-Hancock Regional Planning and Development Council held a full-day workshop to develop a community vision for redeveloped brownfield sites.

The facilitator, James Waddell, with the Army Corps of Engineers, used a multi-integrated vision process for a unique “picture is worth a thousand words” approach. The project was funded through a special grant from the West Virginia Development Office, the Flex-E-Grant.



Members of the Brooke-Hancock Regional Planning and Development Council gather to create a vision to redevelop brownfields in their communities.

EPA Awards WVVRI \$600,000 for Sustainable Energy Park Project

The West Virginia Water Research Institute at West Virginia University was selected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to receive a \$600,000 award to develop a framework for cultivating Sustainable Energy Park opportunities on mined land in Appalachia. The initial focus for park development will be biomass, but consideration will be given to potential of other forms of alternative energy generation such as wind, solar, and geothermal. The model produced in this project can be transferred to other communities facing the challenges posed by mine-scarred land redevelopment. This will serve to tie in the State economy to the regional/national “green” economy.

WVVRI and NBAC will use the grant to provide technical assistance to rural Appalachian



Paul Ziemkiewicz (left), director of the WVVRI and Susan Janowiak, director of the Office of Brownfields and Outreach, EPA Mid-Atlantic Region.

communities in identifying potential energy production sites called sustainable energy parks. These parks will develop local economic growth, reduce or minimize greenhouse gases through carbon sequestration and promote renewable energy technologies.

Staff Spotlight – Sera Janson

The Brownfields Center is proud to announce the newest addition to our staff, Sera Janson. Sera comes to the WV Water Research Institute’s Brownfields program after completing her Master’s research in Natural Resources Social Science at Oregon State University’s College of Forestry. Prior to graduate school, Sera worked with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), participating in natural resource planning, programmatic strategy development, and education and outreach at both the local and national levels.

“I am excited by the opportunity to live in the Wild and Wonderful and to work with you and your communities.”

Sera Janson, Project Manager
FOCUS WV Brownfields Program



Sera Janson (right) presents FOCUS Grant award to Region 9 Planning and Development Council

Sera values relationships and has worked in partnership with diverse stakeholders including various federal, state, local, tribal and private partners. She enjoys outdoor recreation, especially on rivers, and brings personal interest and professional experience to her new position.

Staff Spotlight – Dave Saville

Dave Saville has recently joined the staff of the Water Research Institute as Outreach Coordinator. His experience in outreach work comes from over a decade of working in the conservation community in West Virginia.



Since earning his MS degree from the WVU Division of Forestry, Dave has worked for the USDA Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, Wheeling Jesuit University Biology Department, and most recently, the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy. An avid gardener, Dave also enjoys many forms of outdoor recreation including telemark skiing, whitewater paddling, cycling, hiking and camping.

As outreach coordinator, Dave will organize events, develop publications and maintain effective web based communications. He is pleased to be working with the WV Water Research Institute to preserve and restore our natural environment through research and partnerships with industry, government agencies, academia and the public.

2009 West Virginia Brownfields Conference *RE-ENERGIZING COMMUNITIES*

When: September 1&2, 2009

Where: Morgantown, WV

What: Premiere Brownfields Event in the State

10 Sessions including:

EPA Grantwriting

Financing a Brownfield

Sustainable Energy on Brownfields

Case Studies

And much more....

New features to this year's event include an Exhibit Hall, sponsorship opportunities and expanded networking breaks.

LRS Credits are available and other Continuing Ed Credits in Economic Development are anticipated.

Register online at www.wvbrownfields.org

FOCUS WV Plans Showcase Event to Celebrate Progress

The Brownfields Foundation for Overcoming Challenges and Utilizing Strengths (FOCUS) in West Virginia awarded Mini Grants for fifteen projects in nine counties to enable communities to cultivate and implement a redevelopment vision for brownfield properties of strategic community interest. FOCUS WV grantees along with a network of brownfield stakeholders, including private investors, government agencies, and community leaders, will come together on **August 4th, 2009** at the New Erickson Alumni Center in Morgantown, WV to celebrate their project success.

This event will also provide an opportunity to illustrate how communities overcame project challenges. The presentations will serve to promote and sell the projects to other attendees with the potential to leverage additional interest and resources for the projects.

The FOCUS WV Showcase Event program agenda will be available in early June. Check the website for more info. www.wvbrownfields.org

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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 (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!

Brownfields Inventory Gets a Boost

The Northern WV Brownfields Assistance Center has received a \$10,000 Flex-E grant to increase the ability of communities to utilize Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to identify, inventory, track, and market brownfields sites.

A Brownfields GIS Inventory is a portal for private investors and developers, as well as public stakeholders, including local governments and community-based organizations, to view sites of interest, track institutional controls on the property, and increase the ability to leverage funds for the assessment, clean-up, and redevelopment of the sites. GIS experts at Marshall University's Center for Environmental, Geotechnical and Applied Sciences (CEGAS) are working with the Brownfields Assistance Centers to develop parameters for Brownfields identification.

A Brownfields Inventory Workshop is planned for the 2009 West Virginia Brownfields Conference and will demonstrate the refined Brownfields Inventory Model. The workshop will walk the participants through the different types of brownfield sites, what information needs to be collected, what format in which to collect the data, instructions for inputting and maintaining an inventory, and strategies for working with landowners in the process.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

FOCUS WV Site Showcase

August 4, 2009

Morgantown, WV

(Invitation Only)

2009 West Virginia

Brownfields

Conference

September 1&2, 2009

Morgantown, WV

EPA National Brownfields

Conference

November 18-21, 2009

New Orleans, LA