

Brownfields Steering Committee

- The FRCOG established the Brownfields Steering Committee to oversee the program, create site selection criteria, and determine which sites to include in the program.
- The Committee membership includes representatives from municipalities, Greenfield Savings Bank, Greenfield Cooperative Bank, Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority, Franklin County Community Development Corporation, Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition, US EPA's New England Region, and the MA Department of Environmental Protection.



Upper Mill
Colrain, MA

2001



2003



Dubois Property
Montague, MA

2003



2007

Brownfields Program Activity

- Brownfields have the potential to negatively impact our region's natural resources, public health, and economic development opportunities.
- The FRCOG Brownfields Program provides resources to help assess Brownfields and, if necessary, to remediate contamination, and bring these properties back into productive use for the benefit of our communities and the environment.
- The FRCOG works with the EPA to determine if a site is eligible for assessment activities under this Program. For example, if the current property owner is directly responsible for the contamination, the site may not be eligible.
- As of 2011, through multiple grant awards from the EPA, the FRCOG Brownfields Program has funded assessment activity or provided clean-up resources to over 40 sites in 15 Franklin County towns.
- Participating towns have included: Bernardston, Buckland, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Greenfield, Leverett, Leyden, Monroe, Montague, New Salem, Orange, Shelburne, and Whately.

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Franklin Regional Brownfields Program

Brownfield: Real property, that the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.

(Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)



FRCOG Brownfields Program



- The FRCOG has received five \$200,000 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) environmental site assessment grants. Four grants were to assess the potential presence of hazardous substances (2002, 2004, 2009, and 2011) and one grant was to assess potential petroleum product contamination (2008).

- With these grant funds, the FRCOG is able to hire an engineering firm to complete environmental site assessments for properties requested by communities and approved by the Brownfields Steering Committee to be included in the Program.

The goals of the Brownfields Program are:

- To inventory and map Brownfields sites in the region, and use established criteria to select sites for inclusion in the Program;

- Work with willing property owners to gain access to the site to conduct assessments to protect public health and safety and the environment; and

- Complete Phase I and Phase II ESA Reports, and Phases III Remediation Plans to support the clean-up and reuse of Brownfields sites.

Environmental Site Assessments

What is an Environmental Site Assessment (ESA)?

Established standards guide how an ESA is conducted and reported.

- A **Phase I** ESA assesses a site's potential contamination by conducting historical research and reconnaissance of the site.

- A **Phase II** ESA assesses the impact of potential contamination through sampling and laboratory analysis of soil, groundwater, or building materials.

- If contamination is found in sufficient concentrations, a **Phase III** Remediation Plan outlines how to conduct the clean-up.

- Due to Federal rules, the EPA treats contamination caused by hazardous substances and by petroleum separately.

- The past petroleum grant assessed impacts on former gas stations, auto service stations and fuel storage sites. Residential properties contaminated by heating fuel were not eligible.

- The current hazardous substances grant allows eligible sites to be assessed for a variety of contaminants, including asbestos, heavy metals, VOCs, PAHs and more.

Brownfields Clean-Up Revolving Loan Fund



- The Brownfields Clean-up Revolving Loan Fund was created through a \$1 million grant from the EPA to the FRCOG in 1999.

- In 2005, the EPA awarded a subsequent \$500,000 grant to increase the fund's resources and allow loans and sub-grants to be offered to eligible applicants.

- The fund provides low-interest loans to eligible, credit-worthy public and private sector entities to clean-up Brownfields sites in the region. A percentage of the fund may also be used to award sub-grants to eligible municipalities.

- Borrowers and sub-grantees are required to provide a 20% match and must be a "non-responsible party" for the contamination.