

U.S. EPA REGION 8

# WBWIRE NEWSLETTER



## Winter 2016/2017 Edition

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### 2016 Year in Review

The Region 8 Brownfields Program had an exciting and successful year in 2016. Through our grants and technical assistance, we helped create many benefits for local communities across Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming and 27 Tribal Nations including:

- 115 properties assessed
- 20 cleanups completed
- 295 acres made ready for reuse
- \$27,728,320 leveraged, and
- 111 jobs leveraged.

In May, EPA awarded \$3.3 million to 10 entities across Region 8 to assess, cleanup and redevelop contaminated properties. One of these grant recipients, **Centro Civico Mexicano**, received a \$200,000 EPA cleanup grant along with an additional \$200,000 from Salt Lake County's Brownfields revolving loan fund to cleanup contaminated soils. The cleanup enables Centro Civico Mexicano to develop a multi-use community facility including affordable housing units, a theater, gym, soccer facility and a gallery. Utah media covered the project including articles by [Desert News](#), [The Salt Lake Tribune](#), and [Good4Utah.com](#).

Also in 2016, the **City of Minot, North Dakota**, completed its Brownfields area-wide plan. After two years of research and extensive community involvement, the City of Minot announced plans to revitalize the Souris River Corridor with its Brownfields Area-wide Plan.



Dancers at the Centro Civico Mexicano event.

The plan was adopted by the Minot City Council in July. The area-wide plan evaluates land use and redevelopment options for multiple catalyst sites along the Souris River corridor, which was heavily damaged by the 2011 flood. The plan's framework helped the City receive \$74 million from HUD earlier this year to address climate change by reducing flood risk, building resilient neighborhoods and spurring economic development.

## 2016 Year in Review continued...

The City of Minot has also used a \$400,000 EPA Brownfields grant to assess over 15 sites in the Souris River corridor including the Oak Park Theater. A once thriving entertainment center, the Oak Park Theater operated from the 1960's until the flood in 2011. The damage from the flood, along with 5 years of neglect and unknown contamination had left the property vacant and in a state of disrepair. The City of Minot and the community recognized the potential of the theatre and the overall Oak Park Shopping Center and designated the property as a catalyst site in their Brownfields Area-wide plan that was completed last summer. The City also used its Brownfields grant to conduct a Phase I and II assessment to demystify the environmental condition. The assessment results confirmed the Oak Park Shopping Center did not have elevated levels of contamination, providing a green light to local developers to proceed with construction of the theatre and other new businesses in the shopping center. As reported in the Minot Daily News [here](#), the owner is now putting the finishing touches on the theatre, and they are looking forward to celebrating the grand opening in January.

In 2016, EPA conducted 45 Targeted Brownfield Assessment Projects (TBA) for communities across Region 8. Several of those TBAs were part of EPA's partnership with **Denver Urban Gardens** (DUG). Through the TBA program, EPA tests new or expanded garden sites DUG has selected for contaminants such as heavy metals, polycyclic hydrocarbons, petroleum, and pesticides—common byproducts of industry and urban environments. Read more about EPA's partnership with DUG in the publication *Seeds of Success: [EPA's Targeted Brownfields Assessments Help Denver's Urban Gardens Flourish](#)*.

On October 20, 2016, the **Spirit Lake Tribe** completed cleanup of five abandoned homes in Sheyenne, North Dakota. The former structures are part of a larger complex known as the Sheyenne Relocatable Homes, which were vacated due to asbestos containing materials and their overall poor condition. Five of the homes have now been demolished and properly disposed of, which will provide space for much needed new and safe housing. Spirit Lake Tribe used funds from its CERCLA 128(a) Brownfields Tribal Response Program grant to pay for the cleanups. EPA also assisted by providing technical Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) support to characterize the buildings and provide cleanup cost-estimates. The Tribe applied for an EPA Brownfields cleanup grant to address the 20 remaining homes.

After six years, the much anticipated **Western Brownfields Workshop** was held in 2016. In coordination with Regions 9 and 10, the Region 8 Brownfields team co-hosted a Western Brownfields Workshop in San Francisco on September 28 and 29. Approximately 70 brownfields grantees and partners from Region 8 communities were in attendance. The workshop provided critical training for new grantees, an opportunity to engage face-to-face with grantees from across the region, and an opportunity to share best practices between our western regions.

Our state partners continue to provide an invaluable service to communities cleaning up brownfields sites. We thank all of our partners and grantees for their hard work addressing brownfields sites over the past year! We look forward to continuing addressing brownfields with our partners in 2017. Happy New Year!



Photo of one of Glenwood Springs' catalyst sites, the Decommissioned Waste Water Treatment Plant.

## Orem, Utah and Glenwood Springs, Colorado Selected to Receive Brownfields Area-wide Planning Grants

On January 5<sup>th</sup>, EPA announced the selection 19 communities for approximately \$3.8 million in funding to assist with planning for cleanup and reuse of Brownfield sites as part of the Brownfields Area-Wide Planning (AWP) program. In Region 8, EPA selected Glenwood Springs, CO, Orem, UT to receive Brownfields Area-wide Planning grants. Funded at \$200,000 each, these grants are a component of the Agency's contribution to the HUD-DOT-EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities. Successful applicants will develop area-wide (e.g., neighborhood, district, city block or corridor) plans, which will inform the assessment, cleanup and reuse of brownfield properties and promote area-wide revitalization. Glenwood Springs will focus its efforts at catalyst properties along the confluence of the Colorado River and the Roaring Fork River near downtown. Read Glenwood Spring's local news media [coverage](#). Orem will target the Geneva Road Area, which has been an industrial corridor and employment center for Utah County. More information on the funding and recipients can be found on [EPA's webpage](#): [press release](#) and [selected applicant project summaries](#). More information on the Partnership of Sustainable Communities can be found [here](#).

## Technical Assistance for Tribes

On January 11, EPA announced \$2 million to assist Tribes' Brownfields effort. EPA selected Kansas State University to provide technical support for five years to tribes addressing environmentally contaminated land. Stay tuned to learn how to access this technical assistance in the near future. Read the [press release](#) for more information on the technical assistance that will be available for tribes cleaning up and revitalizing lands.

## EPA Grant Funding Opportunities

### Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) grant

EPA issued the [Request for Proposals \(RFP\)](#) for the **Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) grant**. Proposals are due **February 24, 2016**. EPA is soliciting proposals from eligible entities, including nonprofit organizations, to deliver Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training programs that recruit, train, and place local, unemployed and under-employed residents with the skills needed to secure full-time employment in the environmental field. Successful applicants will be awarded grant funds at amounts up to \$200,000 for the development and implementation of environmental job training programs.

There will be two webinars discussing this grant competition. The content in both the webinars will be the same. The first webinar will be held on January 10, 2017 at 12:30 p.m. ET and the second webinar will be held on January 12, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. ET. Both webinars will be recorded and posted to the Brownfields website. You can access the webinars by clicking this link, advance registration is not required: <http://epawebconferencing.acms.com/fy17ewdjt/>.

### Environmental Justice Small Grants Request for Proposals

The **Environmental Justice Small Grants** [Request for Proposals](#) is open until **January 31, 2017**. EPA's Environmental Justice Small Grants program provides financial assistance to community-based organizations, and local and tribal governments working on projects to address environmental and public health concerns. Under this RFP, EPA will award grants that support activities designed to empower and educate affected communities to understand environmental and public health issues and to identify ways to address these issues at the local level. Approximately 40 one-year projects will be awarded at \$30,000 each.

## Key Dates

- **February 24, 2017:** [EPA Brownfields Environmental Workforce and Job Training grant](#) proposals due.
- **Spring/Summer 2017:** EPA Assessment and Cleanup grant selection announcement anticipated
- **Fall 2017:** Assessment, Cleanup, RLF request for proposals anticipated.
- **December 5-7, 2017:** [National Brownfields Conference](#), Pittsburg, PA. **Call for ideas open until March 17, 2017.** Submit an idea [here](#).



Save the date for the National Brownfields Conference

## Contact Us

For more information about U.S. EPA Region 8's Brownfields program please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-and-land-revitalization-region-8> or contact Stephanie Shen at: [shen.stephanie@epa.gov](mailto:shen.stephanie@epa.gov).

