

West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center



Summer 2015 News Brief

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Huntington Receives EPA Brownfields Planning and Assessment Grants

EPA Region III Brownfields personnel are becoming quite familiar with the City of Huntington. Several attended the 2014 WV Brownfields Conference in Huntington, followed by an announcement in the Spring of 2015 regarding the City's successful Area-Wide Planning Grant application, totaling \$200,000. EPA Region III personnel, including EPA Regional Administrator Shawn Garvin, were back in town in July of 2015 to announce Huntington's brownfields assessment grant, totaling \$400,000 in funding to perform environmental assessments on both hazardous and petroleum sites.



EPA Regional Administrator Shawn Garvin on Marshall University's campus announcing Huntington's EPA Area Wide Planning and Assessment Grant Funding

Both grants are for a three-year period, officially starting in October of 2015, and will be managed in unison to maximize results. The City recently began working with the West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center at Marshall University to assemble an initial site inventory, including sites with known or suspected environmental concerns,

vacant/dilapidated house sites, closed or underutilized industrial properties, and properties along key corridors of redevelopment interest. Target areas include the Hal Greer Boulevard Corridor and Fairfield West Neighborhood, Highlawn Neighborhood, and Huntington's West End area.



Closed sites like this former service station are potential candidates for evaluation as part of Huntington's Area-Wide Planning and Assessment Grant Funding

Redevelopment planning will be guided by "Plan 2025: The Future of Huntington". This comprehensive plan was created by city leadership and the Huntington Neighborhood Institute, with major input from neighborhood organizations and community groups. This plan includes eleven neighborhood-specific revitalization plans, identifying key initiatives across a wide variety of themes, including land use, housing, community design, economic development, infrastructure, green space and recreation.



Additional EPA brownfields grant recipient stories on page 2 and 3

WVDEP's Division of Land Restoration Receives 2nd EPA Brownfields Hazardous Assessment Grant

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's (WVDEP) Division of Land Restoration (DLR) continues their success in receiving EPA Brownfields funding, the latest project utilizing \$200,000 for hazardous sites. This is the fourth EPA Brownfields assessment grant received by the DLR since 2008, including two grants for hazardous sites and two grants for petroleum sites. This three-year grant, totaling \$200,000, is available for statewide use, however, the focus area is the chemical corridor within the Kanawha Valley, including Kanawha, Fayette and Putnum counties. This region has experienced significant job losses in the chemical industry in past decades, leaving multiple properties closed or severely underutilized.

The DLR has again partnered with the West Virginia Brownfield Assistance Centers at Marshall University and West Virginia University, who will be providing community outreach and education, plus background site checks to determine potential sites of interest. A group of community partners has been assembled for this project to assist in spurring local community interest and involvement, including the Charleston Area Alliance, Chemical Alliance Zone, Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, and Regional Intergovernmental Council.



Vacant buildings, and abandoned sites are located throughout the chemical corridor within the Kanawha Valley. DLR's EPA brownfields hazardous assessment grant may help spur new developments on these types of properties



Patty Hickman, Director of the DLR, said "we are pleased to be able to assist communities within the chemical corridor of the Kanawha Valley. This funding will enable us to assist these local communities in successfully addressing and reutilizing these strategic properties. George Carico, Director of the West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center at Marshall University, added "We're proud to have had a major role in helping DLR get this critical funding for the Kanawha Valley corridor, and are excited at the opportunity to continue our efforts in assisting DLR as this project gets rolling. If we can help get one property back into productive use, with associated jobs and related economic and community development, it's well worth our extensive efforts".

This project is scheduled to start in October of 2015. In preparation for conducting work within this grant, the WVDEP and WV Brownfields Assistance Centers held a kick-off meeting at the WVDEP's Charleston office in August of 2015. Community partners were invited, and project details were discussed. An additional community-based meeting is scheduled for September 10th in South Charleston, hosted by the Regional Intergovernmental Council. Additional community-based meetings will be scheduled after the October start date.



Funding from the DLR's previous EPA brownfields hazardous assessment grant was used on the dilapidated IOOF Building in Montgomery to determine the presence of environmental contaminants



-Promoting a Healthy Environment

EPA Brownfields Job Training Grant in Southern WV Announced

The US Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization is providing a total of \$192,300 in federal funding to the Coalfield Development Corporation to provide environmental workforce and job training in southern West Virginia. Marshall University's Center for Environmental, Geotechnical and Applied Sciences (CEGAS) and the West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center at Marshall University, a state-mandated program of CEGAS, have partnered with the Coalfield Development Corporation on this initiative, one of 19 job training grants awarded nationally. This program is targeted for unemployed and underemployed young adults, veterans, and coal miners in Cabell, Wayne, Lincoln and Mingo Counties, and is designed for participants to develop wider skill sets that improve their ability to secure full-time, sustainable employment in the environmental field that includes chemical safety, water quality improvement, and various aspects of hazardous and solid waste management.

The "Reclaim Appalachia: Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training" program will include 218 hours of instruction in asbestos abatement; 40-hour Hazardous Site Worker Training; lead abatement, renovation, repair and painting; mold awareness, methamphetamine lab cleanup; chemical inventory, storage and handling; site surveying and blueprint reading; and several job readiness and life skills training courses. Participants will earn state or federal certifications and

licenses, and advanced-level participants will obtain an Associates Degree from Mountwest Community and Technical College upon completion of the program.

Key partners include the West Virginia Region 2 Workforce Investment Board, Wayne County Economic Development Authority, Southern West Virginia Community Action Council, Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, Veterans Employment Council, and multiple environmental and community-based organizations. Funding will be used to train up to approximately 80 residents for entry-level environmental jobs helping to clean up abandoned and contaminated properties in southern West Virginia.

The Coalfield Development Corporation is a not-for-profit organization that has been providing affordable homes, creating jobs, and generating opportunities for low income families in southern West Virginia since 2009. At a recent event held on Marshall University's campus announcing this award, Brandon Dennison, Coalfield Development Corporation Director, stated "We're bleeding jobs right now in southern West Virginia, but the good news is we can beat this. Hopefully we can start with this job training initiative".

The performance period for this grant is three years, beginning in October of 2015.

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Brandon Dennison,
Coalfields
Development Exec.
Director



The Former Urlings Building in Wayne is one of the Coalfield Development Corporations Latest Projects, Transforming a Closed Building Near the Center of Town into a Coffee Shop with Apartments



Brandon Dennison, Coalfield Development Corporation Executive Director, Speaks During EPA's Job Training Grant Announcement in Huntington (July 2015)



Coal Heritage Building in Mt. Hope Getting Restored

After several years of planning, grant writing, and environmental assessment /cleanup activities, including the performance of an EPA Targeted Brownfields Assessment grant and underground storage tank removals (performed by WVDEP), restoration of the former Patteson/Dearing building in Mount Hope is now underway. Intended as the future home of the Coal Heritage Discovery Center, this building is recognized as a contributing structure in Mount Hope's national register historic district. Restoration began in October of 2014; restoration of the exterior is now complete. This restoration involved interior demolition, replacement of the roof, masonry repairs and replacement of windows and the original store front windows and doors. Chapman Technical Group from St. Albans has been responsible for design work and construction management of the project; Lombardi Construction from Follansbee, WV is the general contractor with numerous West Virginia sub-contractors engaged for specialized tasks. This work has been completed with over \$800,000 in funding from various sources including Scenic Byway and Transportation Enhancement funds, WV State Historic Preservation Office, Greater Kanawha Foundation, Greater Mount Hope Foundation and the National Coal Heritage Area. Interior design has been completed and funding is currently being sought for interior restoration of the structure, with a fundraising campaign set to launch in September, 2015.



*Top View: Early 1960's view of Patteson/Dearing Building
Bottom View: Present Day During Restoration*

Golden Delicious Apples Coming Home to Clay County

America's favorite apple, the *Golden Delicious*, is coming home to Clay County. First discovered here in the late 1800's by the Mullins family, the tree species is now owned by Stark Brothers. The Central Appalachian Empowerment Zone (CAEZ), assisted by the WV Brownfields Assistance Center at Marshall University, received funding from the WV Division of Energy and Appalachian Regional Commission for planting of up to 5,000 apple trees on former mine land property near the town of Clay, WV. The WV National Guard and WV State University Extension Services are providing assistance on the project, with the first planting to occur in September of 2015. Connie Lupardis, CAEZ Director, stated "this is more than just planting a bunch of apple trees. It's about establishing a new agriculture opportunity". Natural Resource Partners (property owner), Consolidated Coal and the WV Department of Agriculture are also major partners in this project. As an addition to this project, CAEZ is working throughout Clay County to encourage property owners to plant apple trees for future agriculture opportunities.



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