

NEW JERSEY'S BROWNFIELDS INTERAGENCY WORK GROUP (IAWG)

The United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfields Economic Development Initiative is designed to empower states, communities and economic development stakeholders to work together in a timely manner to assess, safely clean up and reuse Brownfields. The Inter Agency Working Group (IAWG) on Brownfields was established in July of 1996 as a forum for Federal agencies to exchange information on Brownfields-related activities and to develop a coordinated national agenda for addressing Brownfields. In 1998, the EPA with the assistance of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, established its own regional IAWG

Although Federal and State programs may be in place to address local issues, too often programs operate in isolation. The regional Brownfields Inter Agency Working Group provides an opportunity for Federal and State agencies to work together in a more integrated fashion toward redevelopment. The IAWG makes the Brownfields Initiative more effective through coordination of agency efforts and resources. Representing a wide-range of Brownfields stakeholders, the collaboration of diverse backgrounds, expertise, and experience of each agency helps make the initiative a success.

In New Jersey, the working group is led by the New Jersey Business Action Center's Office for Planning Advocacy and is made up of a diverse group of experienced State and Federal agencies. Each team member provides important technical expertise and together the team advises on how best to leverage a myriad of public/private capital resources and practical support that can help to ensure successful brownfields redevelopment.

Who's Involved?

New Jersey's Team*

New Jersey Business Action Center/Office for Planning Advocacy**
 New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection**
 New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
 New Jersey Department of Health, Consumer & Environmental Health Services
 New Jersey Economic Development Authority
 New Jersey Department of Transportation
 New Jersey Department of Treasury

Federal Team*

Department of Commerce
 Department of Housing & Urban Development
 Environmental Protection Agency**
 Department of Housing & Urban Development
 Department of Transportation
 Department of Health & Human Services
 US Army Corps of Engineers
 Center for Creative Land Recycling (CCLR, the Technical Assistance for Brownfields Communities (TAB) Program Coordinator)**

*For Complete list, please visit..... <http://www.state.nj.us/state/planning/brownfields.html>

**Core team

How It Works

The IAWG core team reviews potential projects that local municipalities would like to present to the IAWG. Projects that are recommended for presentation are of a defined scope and limited geographic area within a municipality (or adjacent municipalities for projects that cross jurisdictional lines). It is not within the mission of the IAWG to evaluate a municipal-wide redevelopment program.

Projects are Brownfields redevelopment sites or infrastructure corridors that contain Brownfields issues where there has been prior investment from both the State and Federal agencies and are selected by a consensus of the core team. Lastly, the municipality must have the ability to move the project to completion.

With assistance from the core team, the selected community will produce a presentation for the full IAWG.

After the project is presented to the IAWG, the State and Federal Government team members provide appropriate feedback, make recommendations and provide next steps documents that are developed and presented to the municipality. The team will facilitate follow up on each action item.

Recommendations & Next Steps are developed to:

- Provide the municipality with technical support and guidance.
- Clarify the feasibility of the project.
- Identify solutions for obstacles that the municipality is facing.
- Provide the municipality with an opportunity to receive agency feedback.
- Identify the next steps for the community.

For a list of municipalities that have presented to the IAWG, please visit:

<http://www.state.nj.us/state/planning/brownfields.html>

Municipalities interested in learning more about New Jersey's Brownfields programs, the IAWG or to talk to a representative about potential IAWG projects are encouraged to call the New Jersey's Business Action Center at (866) 534-7789.