

#### Introduction to

# Redevelopment Through a Brownfields Lens

NADO Conference in New Orleans, LA October 2024

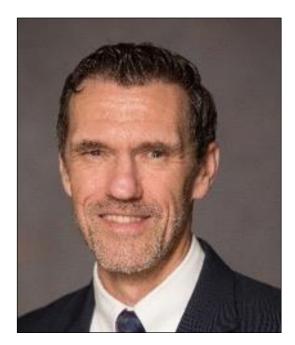
# **Room Survey**

 Has anyone encountered environmental issues during a redevelopment project?

Who is familiar with the term 'brownfield'?

 Who has used brownfield funds to address environmental issues at a site?

# **Today's Speakers**



**Blase Leven, PG**Director, TAB Program
Kansas State University



Rebecca Otte
Brownfields Program
Manager
Louisiana Department of
Environmental Quality

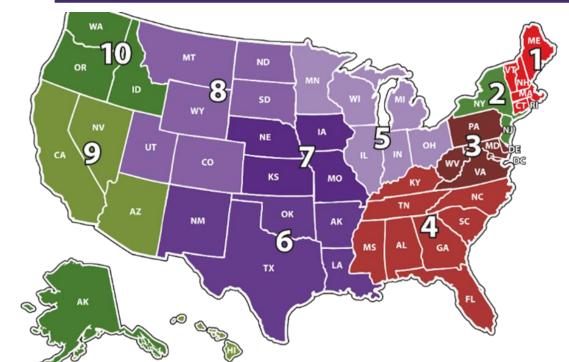


Adam Tatar
Brownfields Program Manager
New Orleans Regional
Planning Commission



Leslie Etzel
Asst. Director in EPA R6
TAB Program
Kansas State University

# **Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB)**



#### What is TAB?

- A national program funded by U.S. EPA
- Services provided are FREE and tailored to address specific community needs
- Assist communities and tribes with the brownfield assessment, cleanup and redevelopment process

#### Who are the TAB Service Providers?

#### **EPA Region 1**

**University of Connecticut** 

EPA Region 2 & 4

New Jersey Institute of Technology

#### **EPA Region 3**

West Virginia Research Corporation **EPA Regions 5, 6, 7 & 8** 

Kansas State University

EPA Regions 9 & 10

Center for Creative Land Recycling

# **Agenda**

#### **Brownfields 101**

Kansas State University Technical Assistance to Brownfields

### Get to know your State Brownfields Program!

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality

# Regional Partnerships for Brownfields Redevelopment

New Orleans Regional Planning Commission

#### **TAB Assistance and Resources**

Kansas State University Technical Assistance to Brownfields



# **Brownfields 101**

# What is a Brownfield?





"A real property in which the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminate."





#### **Generally, Brownfield properties:**

- Have liability concerns (or fear of the unknown)
- Have low acquisition costs
- Can be repurposed to meet important needs
- Are eligible for various grant funds/tax incentives

# What is the Brownfields Law?

# Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act (1/11/2002)

- Provides liability protections
- Provides funding for brownfield assessment and cleanup
  - Local governments & nonprofits (including Development Organizations)
  - Requires community involvement
  - Redevelopment must benefit community (e.g. creates jobs/provides housing).



# How do we tackle Brownfields?

#### **▼** Get funding for assessments and cleanups

#### Non-competitive funding

- Regional EPA Targeted Brownfields Assessment Programs
- State Brownfields Programs (example: Louisiana DEQ)
- Local Brownfields Programs (example: New Orleans RPC)

#### Competitive grant funding

- Funds given directly to the applicant to hire contractors to perform assessments/cleanups
- ► Do your Environmental Due Diligence
- ► Get help from your TAB provider

# **Types of Brownfield Grants**

#### Community-Wide Assessment (CWA) or Assessment Coalition (AC) Grants

• Phase I ESAs and Phase II ESAs, cleanup planning, other planning activities (revitalization plans, community engagement, market studies), and program management

#### **Multipurpose Grants**

Same as above, but also provides funding for cleanup of brownfield sites

#### **Cleanup Grants**

 Cleanup activities, health monitoring, environmental insurance, monitor/enforcement of institutional controls

#### **Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Grants**

Provide low or no interest loans and/or subgrants for cleanup of Brownfield sites

# **How do we tackle Brownfields?**

► Get funding for assessments and cleanups

#### **▼** Do your Environmental Due Diligence

- Perform a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment <u>before property acquisition</u>
- Needed for liability protections
- Not doing this will disqualify you from receiving Brownfields funding for the property

► Get help from your TAB provider

# How do we tackle Brownfields?

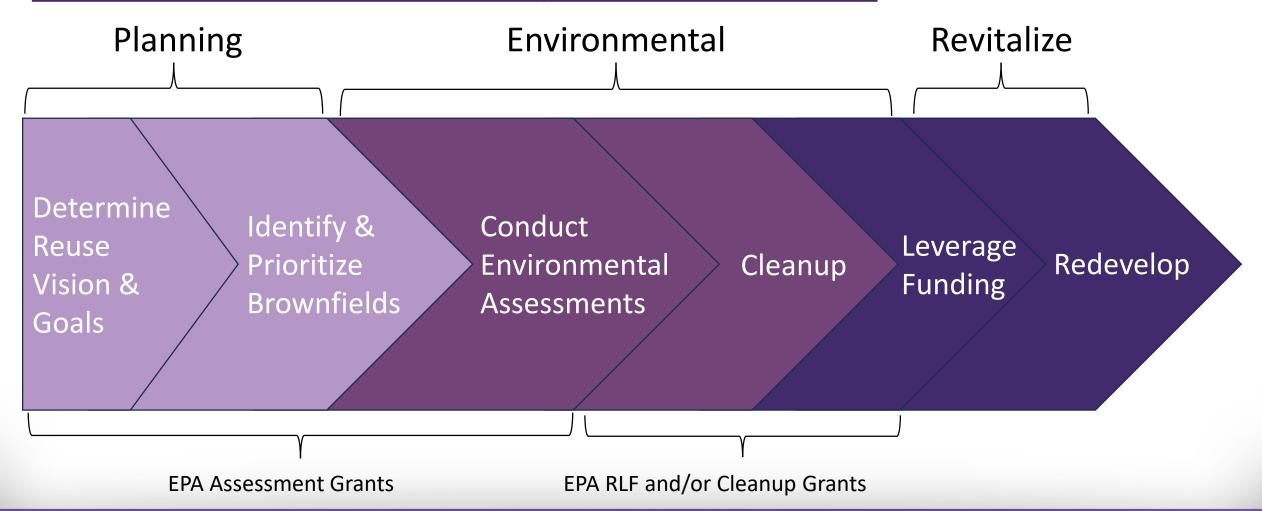
- ► Get funding for assessments and cleanups
- ► Do your Environmental Due Diligence

#### **▼** Get help from your TAB provider

Your TAB partner can help you through the entire Brownfield process! We help with:

- Community Engagement & Community/Economic development
- Grant review
- Environmental Procurement & Technical document reviews
- So much more!

# **Brownfields Redevelopment Process**



# **Determine Reuse Vision & Goals**

#### **▼** Identify stakeholders & engage with the community

- Get their input on redevelopment ideas
- Understand the needs of the community
- Encourage their involvement in the process



#### **▼** Set redevelopment goals

- What are the economic, community, and environmental needs & opportunities to DRIVE redevelopment?
- Do community plans exist? If so, review for already established goals. If these plans do not exist, work with stakeholders to create them.

# **Identify & Prioritize Brownfield Sites**

#### **▼ Identify potential Brownfields**

- Properties with asbestos, lead based paint
- Old gas stations
- Vacant lots / abandoned buildings
- Meth labs

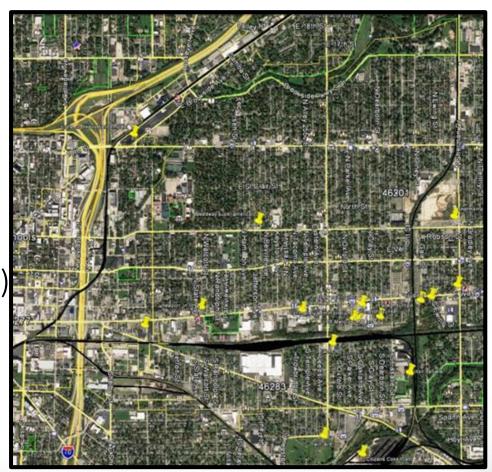
Tools for identifying possible Brownfields:

Platform for Exploring Environmental Records (PEER)

Inventory your community's potential sites:

**Brownfields Inventory Tool** (BiT)

**▶** Prioritize potential Brownfields



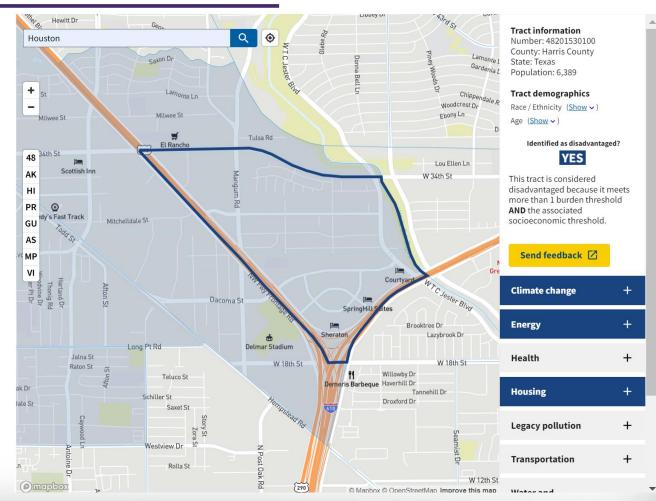


# **Identify & Prioritize Brownfield Sites**

#### ► Identify potential Brownfields

#### **▼** Prioritize potential Brownfields

- What sites are in underserved communities/EJ areas?
  - EPA EJ Screen
  - Climate and Economic
     Justice Screening Tool
- What sites pose the biggest health and environmental threats?
- What sites align with other redevelopment goals



# **Conduct Environmental Assessments**

**Phase I ESA** – a records review of the property to identify possible sources of contamination

**Phase II ESA** – collect soil, groundwater, and air samples to determine in contamination is present and at what levels

**Cleanup planning (as needed)** – Evaluate the costs and requirements to cleanup a site to applicable standards based on the future land use of the property.

Must be done by a qualified environmental professional & needed to understand site conditions and make informed decisions regarding cleanup and reuse.

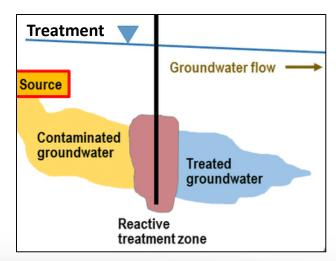


#### **Environmental**

# **Brownfields Cleanup, if needed**

- The goal is to prevent exposure to contaminants by
  - Treatment, removal, containment
  - Land use or institutional controls (if residual contaminants remain)
- Important to understand
  - What is the future land use?
  - How clean is clean for your project?
  - What is required to receive a Cleanup Certificate or No Further Action (NFA)?
  - Are continuing obligations necessary?
  - How much will it cost, and who will pay for what?
- Plan and agree with other partners up front <u>No more</u> <u>Fear of the unknown!</u>





# **Leverage Funding & Resources**

#### Loans

- EDA
- HUD
- Brownfields revolving loan funds
- SBA
- USDA

#### **Grants**

- **HUD's CDBG**
- **EPA MARC Grants**
- EDA public works

#### **Equity capital**

SBA Small Business Investment Cos.

#### Tax incentives and tax-exempt financing

- Targeted expensing of cleanup costs
- Historic rehabilitation tax credits
- Low-income housing tax credits
- Industrial development bonds
- Energy efficiency construction credits

#### **Tax-advantaged zones**

- **HUD/USDA Empowerment Zones**
- **HUD/USDA Enterprise Communities**
- **Opportunity Zones**

& many others!

# Cleanup

#### **Studio Five - Mankato, MN**

Dry cleaner & grocery store

Assessment Funds: State of MN Brownfields funds & EPA CWA Grant

#### Cleanup Funds:

- Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development
  - Demolition, soil removal, vapor mitigation installation
- •TIF funds
  - Demolition, soil removal, utilities, shoring and other restoration



Revitalize

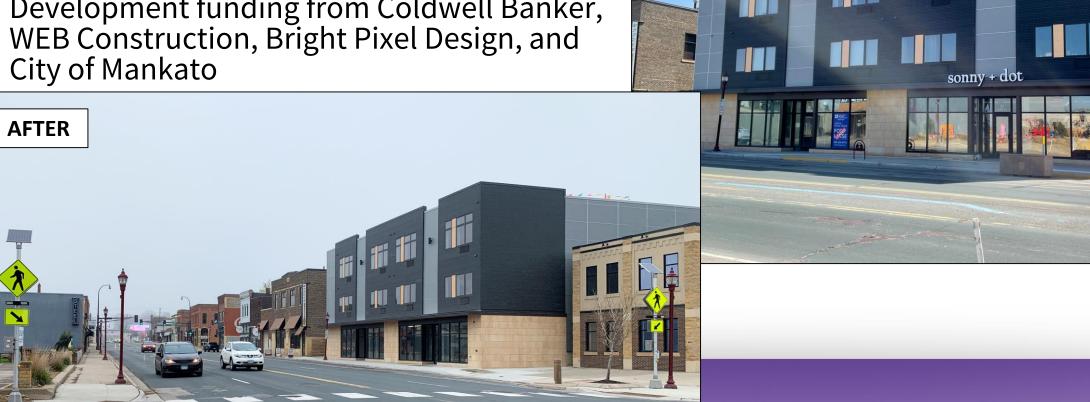
# Redevelop

#### **Studio Five Redevelopment**

3-story mixed use building with:

- 2 commercial suites on ground floor
- 19 apartment units

Development funding from Coldwell Banker, WEB Construction, Bright Pixel Design, and



**AFTER** 

# Get to Know your State Brownfield Program!

National Assoc. of Development Organizations Conference 10/21/2024





### LDEQ Brownfields & VRP Team



Rebecca Otte, LDEQ Brownfields & VRP Coordinator



Jennifer Schatzle, Brownfields and VRP Technical Liaison



Ashlyn Holmes, Brownfield Project Manager



### What is the Brownfield Program?



















Vacant or underutilized property where real or perceived contamination is inhibiting redevelopment or expanded use of the site



# **Example Brownfield Sites**



















# Benefits of the Brownfield Program

Liability Protections

Resources to address environmental concerns to facilitate reuse



#### Good Candidates for Brownfields Assistance

Redevelopment is for a Community Benefit/ Economic Development

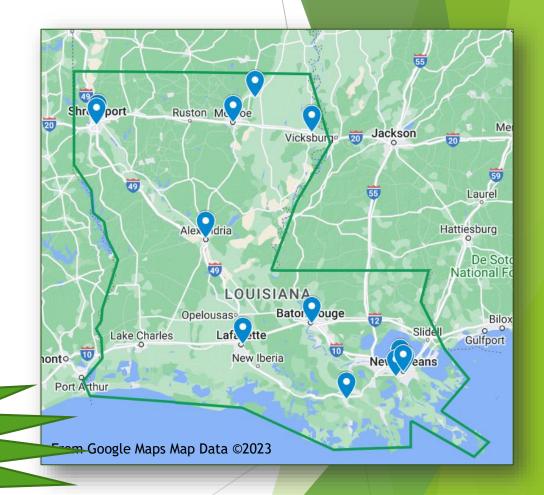
- Owner is on Board\*
  - Flexible Timeline
  - Community Input
  - No Enforcement Orders
  - Reuse Potential
  - Project Champion



### Louisiana Brownfield Programs at Regional Entities

- Rapides Area Planning Commission
- Acadiana Planning Commission
- New Orleans Regional Planning Commission
- South Central Planning and Development Commission

Great way to provide resources to small/ rural communities that wouldn't be able to apply for or manage a grant on their own





#### Parts of the Brownfield Process

- Identify Brownfield Sites/ Create a Brownfield Inventory
  - Prioritize which sites to move forward with Assessment
- Conduct Environmental Assessment Activities
  - Phase I: Research Report to identify potential environmental concerns
  - Phase II: Sampling
  - Cleanup Planning
- If Needed, Conduct Environmental Cleanup Activities
- Redevelop the Site

Not necessarily in this order/can be done concurrently



#### **Brownfield Resources**

	Planning	Assessment	Cleanup Planning	Cleanup
Local Brownfield Program	X	X		
State Brownfield Program*	X	X	X	X
EPA Targeted Brownfield Assessment Program		X		
EPA Technical Assistance	X			
Direct Grant from EPA	X	X	X	X

Funding Availability Fluctuates Regularly

\*Every State is Different -Get to know your Brownfield Coordinator!



# Layering Funding

- Brownfield Cleanup Loan/ Grant
- ► EDA/ HUD/ DRA/ USDA Funding
- Private Investment





# Redevelopment Authorities

- Government or nonprofit entity
- Buy properties to position them for redevelopment
  - Environmental Cleanup
  - Restoration/ stabilization
  - Clean up title



Anyone have a redevelopment authority in their area?



# Voluntary Remediation Program: Benefits

- Clear the site for redevelopment and deal with the offsite contamination later
- Option for partial remediation for non-responsible parties
  - Institutional Controls
  - Engineering Controls
  - Requires Agreement with LDEQ & Conveyance Notice
- Certificate of Completion and Release of Liability
- Can include Funders

Each State is Different - Get to know your State Brownfield Coordinator!



# Non-VRP vs VRP: Investigation

Non-VRP Investigation	VRP Investigation
<ul> <li>Sample where you think there's contamination</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Applicant defines the Area to be investigation</li> <li>Sample where you think there's contamination</li> <li>Samples collected across the entire site (as defined in the application)</li> </ul>
Analyze samples for what you suspect might be there	<ul> <li>Analyze samples for what you suspect might be there</li> <li>Also analyze for a specific list of contaminants</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>May include sampling off site to define the extent of contamination</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Sampling confined to site boundaries</li> </ul>



Less \$\$



#### Non-VRP vs VRP: Remediation

#### Non-VRP Remediation

- Area to be remediated based on the results of the RECAP Investigation
- Remediation of all risks is required, e.g. any contamination that is above LDEQ standards needs to be remediated
- Engineering/ institutional controls generally not acceptable

#### **VRP** Remediation

- Area to be remediated based on the results of the VRP Investigation
- Remediation can be tailored for the intended future use of the site

 Engineering/Institutional controls may be used to prevent exposure to contamination Can save significant \$\$

Can save significant \$\$

Can save significant \$\$



### Non-VRP vs VRP: Final Result

Non-VRP Final Result	VRP Remediation
<ul> <li>No further action at this time (NFA) letter from LDEQ</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Certificate of Completion (COC) for the entire site defined in the application</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Site may be reopened in the future (e.g., if LDEQ changes their standards)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Release of liability from all past contamination at the site for all those names as Applicants (transferable to future site owners)</li> </ul>

# Both use the same Risk-Based Standards

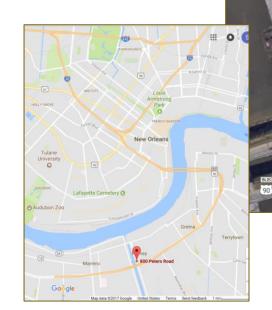


Location: 800 Peters Road, Harvey, Jefferson Parish, LA

Size: 2.5 acres

 Gulf Coast Scrap looking for a site for their operations- everyone thought they were crazy to purchase this site except for RPC, LDEQ & EPA who said we would help address the environmental

Private consultant performed Phase I









- Former vats in the ground leaked Zinc into soil and groundwater
- Zinc groundwater plume extended offsite
- The site was entered into the VRP
- Assessment was limited to property boundaries









- Cleanup included:
  - Removing contaminated soil/ source area to prevent further contamination
  - Filing a conveyance notice on the property to prevent the use of groundwater
    - Would have been prohibitively expensive to cleanup the groundwater
    - Still protects human health by blocking exposure to the zinc contamination







#### Redevelopment: Gulf Coast Scrap

- Reuse of an Existing Structure
- Fabrication from materials removed from demoed structures
- Job Training Program
- Bioswales in parking lot













### **VRP:** Main Takeaways

- ► Can facilitate the redevelopment of a site by focusing on just cleaning up the specific property
- Provides a Certificate of Completion/ Release of Liability
- ► Tends to be higher cost for initial investigation but...
- Cleanup costs may be reduced
  - Confined to site
  - ► Institutional/ Engineering Controls





### **VRP:** Main Takeaways

► Good for dry cleaning sites, gas stations, industrial sites, sites with groundwater contamination

Not applicable to lead/ asbestos/ mold abatements in building materials





### **Contact Information**

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Statewide Brownfields Coordinator

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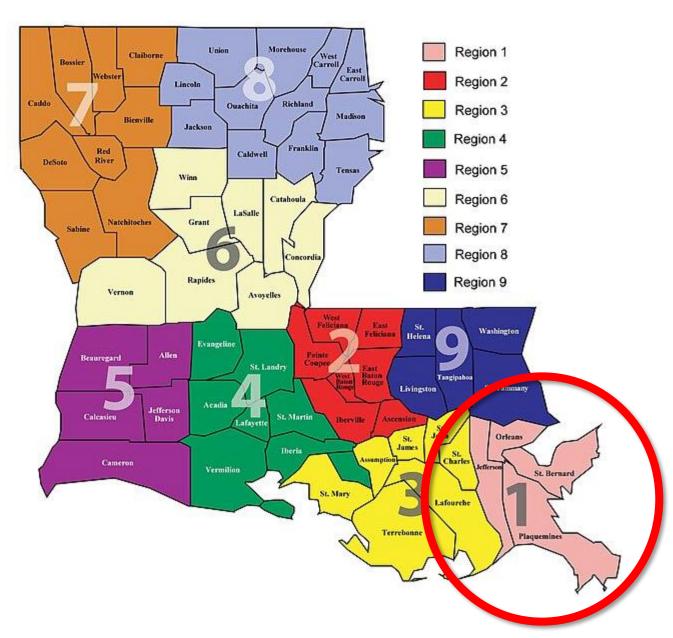
Ashlyn Holmes Brownfields Project Manager

Ashlyn.Holmes@la.gov







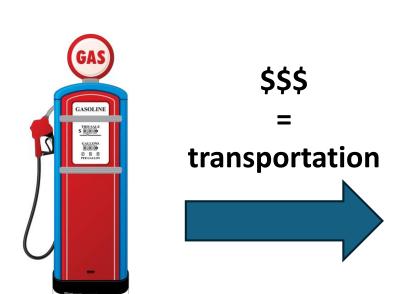


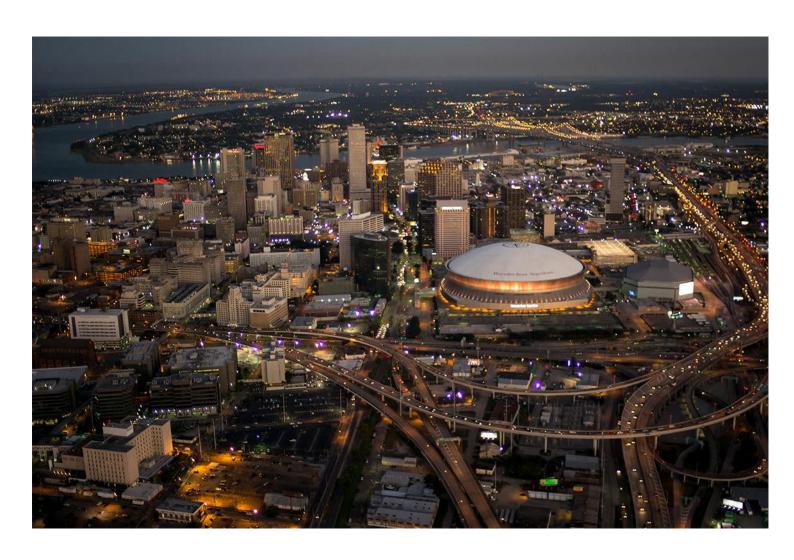




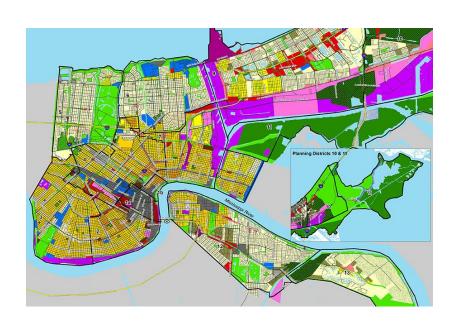


### What the heck is a regional planning agency?

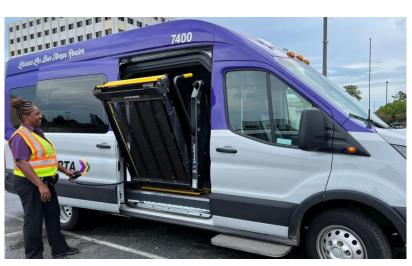




### So, what else do we do?



**Mapping & Data Analysis** 



**Paratransit Coordination** 

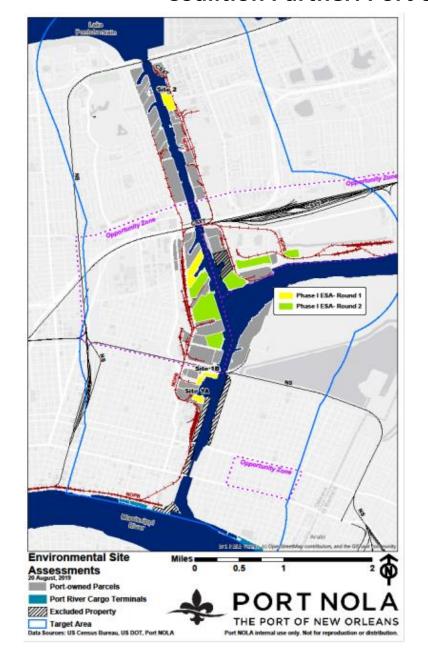


Resiliency Planning & CO2 Reduction



- Assessment Funding
- Grant Administration
- Cheer Leading
- Cat Herding

#### **Coalition Partner: Port of New Orleans**













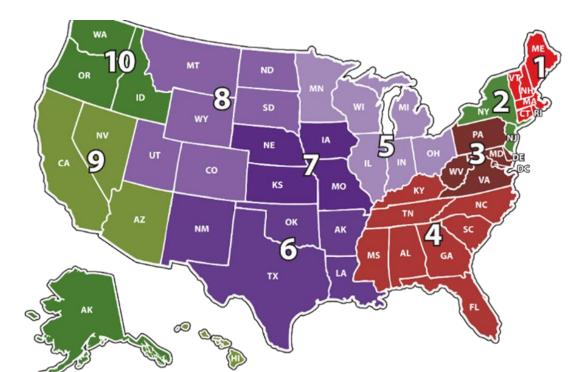






# **TAB Assistance & Resources**

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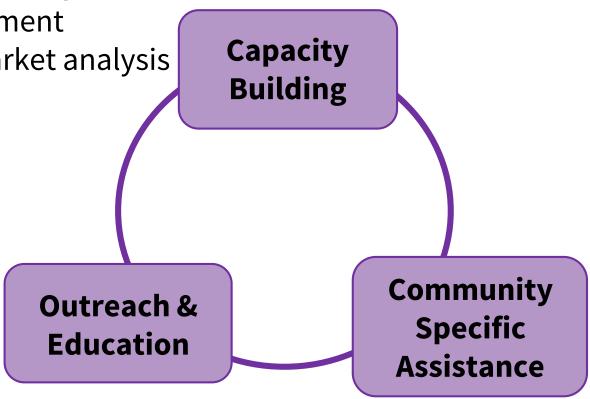
Kansas State University

EPA Regions 9 & 10

Center for Creative Land Recycling

## **Types of TAB Services**

- Help to identify, inventory & prioritize brownfield sites
- Strategic planning and redevelopment visioning
- Incorporating clean energy into redevelopment
- Economic feasibility & highest/best use market analysis
- Building community resiliency
- Educational workshops and webinars
- Community outreach and input
- Help identify funding sources
- Review of Brownfields grant applications
- Help in contractor procurement
- Review of plans and technical reports
- Review of RFP/RFQs



Franklin, LA – Renderings and Community Meeting



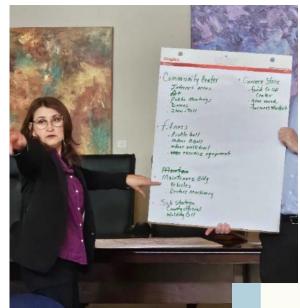


Howardville, MO – Community Betterment Survey

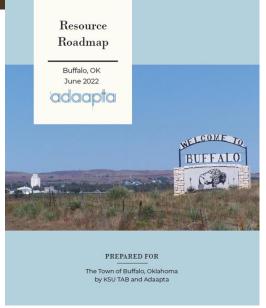
> Brinkley, AR – Brownfield Identification Help

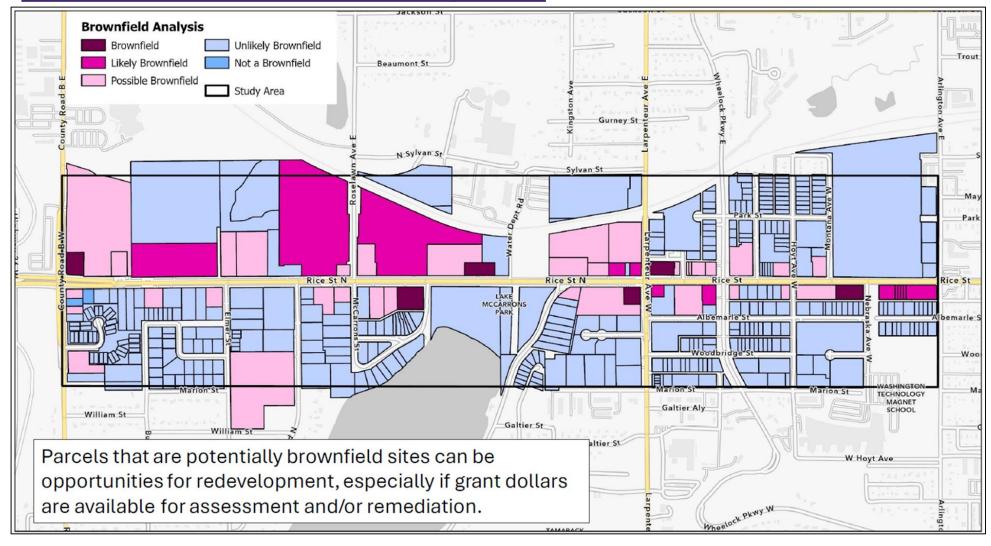


#### Pecos, NM – Reuse visioning session



Buffalo, OK – Resource Roadmap





St. Paul, MN – Brownfields Identification



In the 1-mile radius trade area the following retailers and select personal service providers are in demand:

Business Category	Goods or Services Provider	Business Examples	Property Type	Estimated Square Feet Supported	Typical Business Size (sf)	Estimated Number Businesses Supported
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	Goods	Auto Zone, O'Reilly Automotive	Retail Storefront     Main Street, mall, or Free-standing	79,287	7,000	11
Bldg Materials, Garden Equip. & Supply Stores	Goods	Home Depot, ACE Hardware	Retail Storefront     Industrial/warehouse flex     Main Street, mall, or Free-standing	18,128	10,500	2
Electronics & Appliance Stores	Goods	Best Buy, Game Stop	Retail Storefront     Main Street, mall, or Free-standing	8,299	30,000	1
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	Goods	Petsmart, Office Depot, Gymboree, Barnes & Noble, Dollar Store	Retail Storefront     Main Street, mall, or Free-standing	13,644	20,000	1

Dellwood, MO – Market Analysis

### Zanesville, OH – Community Engagement and Renderings







## **TAB E-Tools**

#### **TAB EZ – Grant Writing Software**

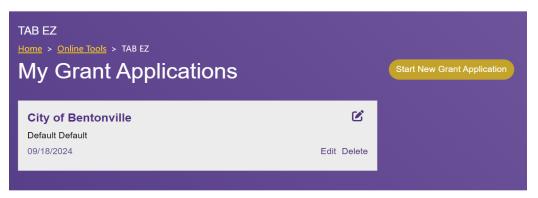
- •Free & user friendly
- Examples of past successful applications
- •Has grant guidelines and evaluation criteria
- •Multiple users can collaborate on a single application

#### **Brownfields Inventory Tool (BiT)**

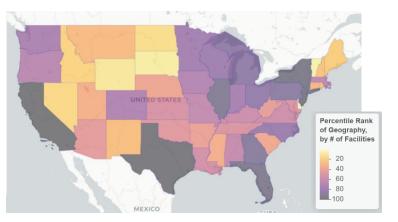
- ■Data management tool to keep track of your Brownfield sites
- Completely private!!
- ■Site details & information

#### <u>Platform for Exploring Environmental Records (PEER)</u>

- •Interactive map that helps inform brownfields redevelopment
- Aggregates and displays publicly-available environmental records
- Each record assigned a Revitalization Risk Rating







### **EPA Brownfields ARC Grant Reviews**

Due to EPA November 14!

Want TAB to review your EPA ARC Grant?

Contact your regional TAB provider for review

Submit for review no later than November 8th







# Your feedback is important!

#### Please provide feedback on today's presentation

Click this link:

https://memphis.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV 8jpdHNIwPCIfwb4?Q CHL=qr

#### OR

Scan this QR image from your smartphone





## Contact us!



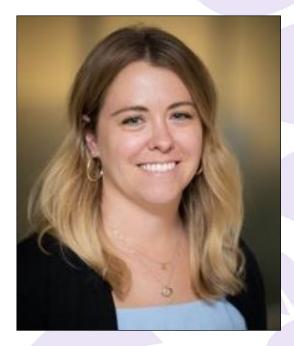
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