

DEQ BROWNFIELDS CAN HELP

The Commonwealth of Virginia has a vested interest in returning vacant and underutilized properties to productive economic use. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has programs designed to help communities address environmental legacy issues that come with previously used sites.

Technical Assistance

Whether you are just getting started or you need ongoing support, connect with DEQ's Brownfields' staff to help with:

- Identifying & prioritizing brownfield sites
- Community outreach & engagement
- Environmental Site Assessments
- Reuse Planning & Conceptual Site Design
- Liaising with federal & state program staff
- Breaking down bureaucratic processes
- Understanding technical environmental aspects & more

VRP

Voluntary Remediation Program

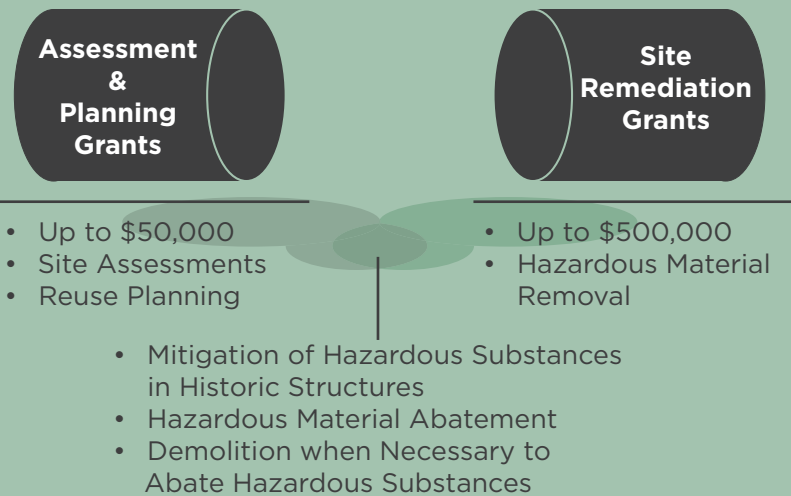
DEQ maintains risk-based standards. VRP is designed to guide cleanup efforts to meet these standards for the safety of future site users. Each VRP site is assigned a Remediation Project Manager who will serve as technical advisor/reviewer and help navigate the site through the VRP process.

<https://www.deq.virginia.gov/our-programs/land-waste/land-remediation>

VBAF Grants

Virginia Brownfields Restoration and Economic Redevelopment Assistance Fund

Funding for local governments for restoration and redevelopment of brownfield sites.



DEQ BROWNFIELDS



THE U.S. EPA CAN HELP

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfields Program offers grants and technical assistance related to the reuse of vacant properties. DEQ's Brownfields' staff are familiar with the resources and can provide guidance about where to start.



EPA BROWNFIELDS



WVU TAB



WVU TAB provides free guidance and education on brownfield redevelopment throughout the Mid-Atlantic region.

EMPOWERING VIRGINIA THROUGH REDEVELOPMENT

A healthy environment. Thriving communities.



Every community has sites that are not currently in use. As properties sit vacant for long periods of time, building materials degrade, neighboring properties are affected, and instances of crime increase.



Returning properties to productive use reverses the negative impacts that vacant properties can have on a community.

The opportunities for reusing vacant sites are endless. There is plenty of room for creativity when it comes to the adaptive reuse of existing infrastructure.

THE PROCESS: *Managing Brownfields*

1

IDENTIFY AND INVESTIGATE SITES

INVENTORY

Identifying sites is a good starting point to understand the full picture of work that needs to be done.

OUTREACH

Meet with stakeholders to determine community priorities, constraints, and desired outcomes.

PRIORITIZE

Consider the specific attributes of each site to determine which projects will have the greatest impact.

- Location
- Visibility
- Opportunity
- Reuse Feasibility
- Interested Stakeholders

INVESTIGATE

Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) will explain and quantify contamination issues that remain on the site as a result of previous uses.

- Phase I ESA
Complete this prior to acquisition for liability protections under federal & state law.
- Phase II ESA
If needed, based on Phase I ESA findings
- Site Characterization Report
- Risk Assessment

3

CLEAN UP THE SITE

APPROPRIATE CARE

Take reasonable steps to prevent existing or future releases of any contamination on the site that could present a risk to humans, the environment, and natural resources.

VOLUNTARY REMEDIATION PROGRAM (VRP)

The Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) ensures that cleanup efforts meet appropriate care requirements based on the state's risk-based safety standards. Participants who complete VRP receive a certificate that provides enforcement immunity.

ENGINEERING OR INSTITUTIONAL CONTROLS

Site cleanup addresses the physical changes that need to occur to prepare the site for its planned redevelopment. Cleanup can take a number of different forms, which may involve removal or encapsulation of contamination. Engineering and/or institutional controls may be utilized to protect human health and the environment, such as use restrictions.

2

PLAN FOR REUSE & CLEANUP

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Members of the community are important allies in site reuse efforts. Additionally, community engagement is often a requirement for projects that receive federal and state funding.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Stakeholders can make or break a project. Engage them early and often.

- Property Owners
- Local Non-Profits
- Municipal Reps
- Local Schools
- Neighbors
- Environmental Agencies
- Funders
- The Media
- Developers
- Others

REUSE VISIONING, PLANNING & DESIGN

A detailed plan and implementation strategy will serve as a guide for site cleanup and redevelopment. A well-thought-out design that works with existing infrastructure, opportunities, and constraints will contribute to overall success and make the project worthwhile.

CLEANUP PLANNING

A Remedial Action Plan, informed by the redevelopment vision, will direct cleanup activities that meet U.S. EPA and VA DEQ standards.

RESOURCE ROADMAP

A detailed action plan with funding sources and advocacy strategy to support implementation.

PRODUCTIVE REUSE