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Ohio EPA Introduces Online Brownfield Inventory Tool

Ohio EPA has unveiled a new online tool to help business identify and develop brownfield properties in Ohio.

Businesses can use the [brownfield inventory database](#) to easily look up available properties, learn what infrastructure services are already developed on those sites and what environmental investigation and cleanup has already been done. Communities will find the website a useful tool for planning or promoting new development for local brownfield sites.

Many sites listed in the inventory are already cleaned up and ready for use, while others may be close to completing a cleanup, or have one or two phases of cleanup completed. Contaminated properties without any investigation or cleanup work performed are not likely to be listed on the brownfield inventory since it targets properties that have been identified as “redevelopment ready” projects.

The online inventory contains information concerning addresses, prior uses, photos, utilities available, proximity to major roads, airports and public transit. It includes mapping tools with pan, zoom, terrain, satellite, and street view features, and grid tools with filter, sort, group or export features. Online tutorial videos demonstrate how to use interactive features. Local governments and private entities may apply to add properties to the database or use an affidavit for property to be removed from the inventory if the property has already been redeveloped or they choose to remove it.

Assessment and clean-up assistance is available through Ohio EPA to facilitate the redevelopment of brownfield sites. For example, Ohio EPA may be able to provide environmental investigation and field screening services at no cost for brownfield sites in Ohio communities through a U.S. EPA grant program. In addition, the Clean Ohio Fund has grant monies available to assess and clean up sites, moving blighted properties into active use. To learn about assessment and financial incentives visit the [Ohio Brownfield Redevelopment Toolbox website](#).

Brownfield properties are abandoned, idled or under-utilized properties and can be unmaintained, often with owners no longer paying taxes. Abandoned properties can attract vandalism, vectors, illegal dumping, and become eyesores that degrade the environment, depress the community and pose health risks. Redeveloping or expanding a brownfield site can be complicated when there is contamination from hazardous substances, petroleum or the potential for a hazardous release. It takes professionally trained and certified assessors to detect when hazards exist. Structures -- such as abandoned factories, warehouses, power plants, dry cleaners, hotels or gas stations -- may exist on a brownfield property.

Productively reusing brownfields creates jobs, encourages urban revitalization, reduces urban sprawl, preserves natural areas, increases the tax base, cleans up the environment and reduces costs for the community associated with adding infrastructure. Redeveloping brownfields links economic vitality with environmental protection.

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www.epa.ohio.gov

To access the Brownfield Inventory Home Page:
www.derr.epa.ohio.gov/home.aspx

To access more information on small or rural community brownfield assistance:
[www.epa.ohio.gov/derr/sabr/Small Rural Community Brownfield Assistance.aspx](http://www.epa.ohio.gov/derr/sabr/Small_Rural_Community_Brownfield_Assistance.aspx)