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**Ohio EPA Workshop to be Held in Sidney;
State, Federal Help Available to Redevelop Blighted Properties in Small Communities**

Ohio EPA is offering a workshop to inform small and rural communities of the state and federal resources available to help redevelop [brownfields](#), or blighted properties. The workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., on Wednesday, March 30, 2011, at the Sidney Police Station, 234 W. Court St., Sidney.

Speakers from Ohio EPA, Ohio Department of Development, U.S. EPA, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Kansas State University (which provides assistance to small communities through a U.S. EPA grant) will address the following topics:

- [Clean Ohio Fund](#);
- Ohio EPA's [Voluntary Action Program \(VAP\)](#) and statewide [inventory](#) of brownfield properties;
- Ohio Department of Development's [Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund](#);
- [Ohio Water Development Authority](#) loan programs;
- U.S. EPA [Brownfield Grants](#), [Technical Assistance to Brownfields \(TAB\)](#) program and [Targeted Brownfield Assessments](#);
- [E-tools](#) for [brownfield revitalization](#) and online summary of local [resources for small and rural communities](#);
- U.S. Department of Agriculture's [Rural Development](#) resources.

In addition to the March 30 Sidney workshop, Ohio EPA is hosting similar workshops March 29 in Lucas County and April 1 in Fairfield County. Workshops can be scheduled for other Ohio communities by contacting [Sydney Poole](#) at (614) 644-3751 or [Amy Yersavich](#) at (614) 644-2285.

In the past 15 years, Ohio EPA has helped revitalize more than 6,000 acres of blighted land at more than 300 sites across the state.

Editor's Note: Reporters should call Heather Lauer or Dina Pierce at (614) 644-2160 if interested in attending the workshop and/or covering the story.