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**Ohio EPA Workshop to be Held in St. Clairsville Sept. 15;
State, Federal Help Available to Redevelop Blighted Properties in Small Communities**

Ohio EPA is offering a free 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 Thurs., Sept. 15, 2011, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Ohio University East, 45425 National Rd., in St. Clairsville. Registration and other information is [online](#).

Speakers from Ohio EPA, Ohio Department of Development, U.S. EPA, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Office 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](#); and
- U.S. Department of Agriculture's [Rural Development](#) resources.

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 16 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 Erin Strouse at (614) 644-2160 if interested in attending the workshop and/or covering the story.

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