

## Oklahoma Brownfields

**Who we are?** The Department of Environmental Quality's Brownfields section provides Oklahoma private parties, non-profits and government entities the means to voluntarily investigate and, if warranted, clean up properties that may be contaminated with pollutants. The Brownfields certification program provides specific state liability relief and protects the property from federal Superfund actions. The Brownfields section provides Targeted Brownfields Assessments (TBA) to public and nonprofit groups at no cost. The program has loans and sub grants, when available, for cleanup of contaminated properties.



Brownfields are defined by Oklahoma law as abandoned, idled or underused industrial or commercial facilities or other real property at which expansion or redevelopment of the real property is complicated by environmental contamination caused by pollution (27A O.S. 2-15-101 et seq.). In general, a Brownfield can be thought of as property that has lost value because of the perception that the site might be contaminated.

The federal and state governments recognize that cleaning up and reinvesting in these properties increases local tax bases, facilitates job growth, utilizes existing infrastructure, takes development pressure off undeveloped open land and improves and protects the environment.

### DEQ Brownfields Programs & Services:

- Certification Program – Environmental liability relief
- TBA – Site investigation

- Cleanup Grants & Loans
- Education Opportunities
- Technical Assistance

### Benefits of Brownfields Redevelopment:

- Accommodates growth in already developed areas
- Reuses existing infrastructure
- Provides an alternative to urban sprawl
- Improves public health
- Turns environmental liabilities into assets

### Negative Consequences of Underutilized Brownfields:

- Decrease in local employment opportunities
- Decrease in local tax revenues
- Decrease in neighboring property values
- Increase in local environmental degradation
- Increase of urban blight
- Contributes to urban sprawl
- New infrastructure construction to Greenfields
- Destroying green spaces and farm land

## **Brownfields Facts:**

- Since the Brownfields Program inception in 1996, over 20,449 sites have been assessed, 90,017 jobs created and \$20.1 billion leveraged in redevelopment.
- Source: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/overview/Brownfields-Benefits-postcard.pdf>.

### **Contact:**

Aron Samwel  
Environmental Programs Manager  
Brownfields Section  
Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality  
(405) 702-5123  
[aron.samwel@deq.ok.gov](mailto:aron.samwel@deq.ok.gov)

**DEQ Land Protection Division  
Brownfields Program:**  
[www.deq.state.ok.us/lpdnew/brownfindex.html](http://www.deq.state.ok.us/lpdnew/brownfindex.html)  
**Oklahoma Brownfields Conference:**  
[www.oklahomabrownfields.com](http://www.oklahomabrownfields.com)