

Oklahoma Brownfields

The Department of Environmental Quality's Brownfields section provides a means to voluntarily investigate and, if warranted, clean up contaminated properties resulting in a release of state and federal Superfund liability.

The Brownfields Section also provides Targeted Brownfields Assessments (TBAs), which can be tailored to the needs of the participant, or to public and nonprofit groups at no cost. The program provides loans and grants for cleanup. Loans are available to public and private entities. Grants are competitive and available to governmental and nonprofit organizations.

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 and Services:

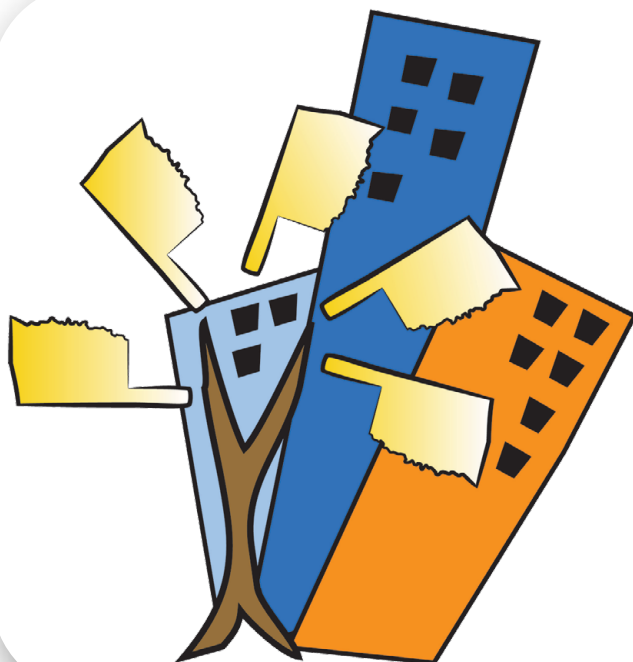
- Certification Program – Environmental Liability Relief
- TBA Site Investigation
- Cleanup Loans
- Education Opportunities
- Technical Assistance

Benefits of Brownfields Redevelopment:

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

Costs of Underutilized Brownfields:

- Decreasing local employment opportunities
- Decreasing local tax revenues
- Decreasing area property values



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 it is believed to be contaminated.

Costs of Underutilized Brownfields (continued):

- Increasing local environmental degradation
- Increasing urban blight
- Contributing to urban sprawl
- Requiring new infrastructure construction
- Destroying green spaces and farm land

Brownfields Fact:

It is estimated that there are more than 450,000 Brownfields in the U.S.

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Brownfields Program:

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