

Oklahoma Source Water Protection Program

Brownfields



Updated December 2024

What are Brownfields?

Brownfields are abandoned, idled or underused industrial or commercial facilities or other real property at which expansion or redevelopment of the property is complicated by perceived or real environmental contamination.



Why Care About Brownfields in Relation to SWP?

Addressing contaminated sites near source waters can help ensure that pollutants and hazardous substances do not make their way into drinking water. Participants can voluntarily investigate and, if warranted, clean up contaminated properties through either the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) brownfields program or the Oklahoma Corporation Commission's (OCC) brownfields program. The OCC program specifically addresses properties that are or are perceived to be contaminated with oil, gas, or petroleum storage tank wastes while the Oklahoma DEQ program addresses non-petroleum contaminated sites in the state.

Oklahoma's Brownfields Program Assistance Is Always Tailored to the Specific Needs of a Community

Examples of services provided:

- Guidance through the brownfields process and assistance with planning environmental work
- Identification of potential funding sources
- Review of draft EPA Brownfields grant applications
- Liaison between communities and state or federal agencies or other entities
- Assistance with hiring an environmental consultant
- Review and interpretation of technical documents

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Benefits of Brownfields Redevelopment:

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

Financial Assistance

The Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) provides qualified applicants with money to clean up contaminated properties. The money is dispersed in the form of low-interest loans. In addition, Oklahoma works to establish financial incentives to further encourage the cleanup of sites.

DEQ Website Search:

Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund

<https://tinyurl.com/yh8uxcbt>

Brownfields Financial Incentives

<https://tinyurl.com/5n7branp>

DEQ Website Search: Land Protection Division

Brownfields <https://tinyurl.com/4f828vke>

OCC Website Search:

OCC Brownfields

<https://tinyurl.com/4wmb3wfy>

Through DEQ Brownfields Program, communities have been able to reinvest in themselves, returning properties in the core of their infrastructure to beneficial reuse.

Contact DEQ:

Reach out to the Capacity Development Section via email or phone and request to participate in the **FREE** program.

Email: DEQ.CapDev@deq.ok.gov

Phone: (405) 702-8141

You can also visit the DEQ website for more info, helpful resources, and to sign up for the program. <https://tinyurl.com/44hsyfut>



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