EPA Awards $1,350,000 to Clean Up Brownfields in Capitol Region -- Funds Help Protect Health and the Environment, and Revitalize Communities

The U.S. EPA has awarded $1,350,000 in Brownfield grants to the Capitol Region Council of Governments to help protect people’s health by assessing and cleaning up contaminated properties in the metro Hartford region. This money will fund the MetroHartford Brownfields Program, which will make available to member communities $400,000 for environmental site assessments, and $950,000 for loans and grants to assist in site remediation efforts. The application was supported by several community partners: the MetroHartford Alliance, Hartford 2000, the Enfield Community Development Corporation, Goodwin College, and the North Star Center for Human Development.

Funds awarded to the Capitol Region Council of Governments will provide communities with funding necessary to assess, clean up and redevelop contaminated properties, boost local economies and leverage jobs while protecting public health and the environment. A focus of program activity will be station area sites in the CTfastrak and NHHS Rail corridors, and other smart growth locations such as town and village centers. “These funds will support transit oriented development in the region’s major transit and rail corridors, and also support revitalization of our town and village centers. It’s a win-win for the region—through preparing blighted properties for redevelopment, thus paving the way for new economic growth in already developed areas, we are able to relieve some of the development pressure on greenfields that the region and town’s wish to preserve,” said Lyle Wray, Executive Director, Capitol Region Council of Governments.

This funding builds on the $1.2 million in brownfields assistance previously invested in the region through the MetroHartford Brownfields Program. The EPA grants will supplement a $200,000 award made to CRCOG in April 2014 under State Department of Economic and Community Development Municipal Brownfield Assessment and Inventory Program.

In the six New England states, EPA is awarding $17.5 million through 48 separate grants to 46 different recipient organizations. The funding is part of $67 million in EPA Brownfields investments awarded across the country. “Funding provided by EPA’s Brownfields program is an important asset for local communities working to get abandoned or derelict properties assessed, cleaned up and back into productive use,” said Curt Spalding, regional administrator of EPA’s New England office. “EPA’s investments in our communities through Brownfields grants leverage an average of approximately $17 for every dollar we spend. This is a wise investment in cleaning and revitalizing contaminated sites, creating jobs and new economic opportunities, and overall making our communities stronger and our environment cleaner.”

The Capitol Region Council of Governments is a regional planning organization serving the City of Hartford and 29 surrounding suburban and rural communities. CRCOG is dedicated to expanding the concept of voluntary cooperation among its member municipalities as the means to successfully respond to many of the region’s pressing governmental and public challenges.

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