



Brownfield redevelopment

Brownfields are abandoned or underused properties where there is known or suspected contamination. They include abandoned gas stations, former dry cleaners, old factories, and more. Investigating and cleaning up brownfields allows for redevelopment while protecting human health and the environment.

Fee for service program

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has a brownfield fee-for-service program that provides technical assistance and issues liability assurance letters to promote the investigation, cleanup, and redevelopment of property that is contaminated with petroleum and hazardous substances. Program customers include property owners, prospective purchasers, developers, lending institutions, local units of government, and nonprofit organizations.

Grant funding

The MPCA administers a grant program, funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), that pays for environmental assessments of brownfield properties to support redevelopment and reuse. The work is performed by MPCA contractors at no cost to grant recipients.

The MPCA seeks to fund projects:

- In disadvantaged communities or areas of concern for environmental justice, when the project will benefit the existing neighborhood and avoid physical or cultural displacement
- That provide community benefits and have community support
- That create community greenspace
- In small communities in Greater Minnesota

Redeveloping brownfield properties benefits local communities



Improves public health and the environment



Reduces urban sprawl



Enhances the livability of neighborhoods



Creates new businesses and jobs



Adds to the tax base

Eligible grant applicants

Eligible sites in Minnesota can be publicly or privately owned with known or suspected contamination. Applicants who are determined to be responsible for the release/contamination are not eligible.

Applicants include, but are not limited to:

- Community organizations
- Local units of government
- Emerging developers (developers who have completed five or fewer projects)
- Tribal Nations

The MPCA staff perform technical reviews and approve workplans, investigation reports, and cleanup plans to ensure that environmental concerns are properly addressed during site redevelopment. The MPCA also provides liability assurance and environmental closure letters, as appropriate, for contamination identified at the property.



Before: Bunge Grain Elevator in Minneapolis. After: Maya Commons & Brook Ave Co-op, affordable housing and student housing cooperative.
Photo: Project for Pride in Living & Riverton Community Housing

Eligible grant activities

- Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments
- Sampling and analysis plans
- Preparation of cleanups plans
- Community engagement for reuse planning
- MPCA Brownfield Programs fees
- In limited situations, hazardous materials building surveys can be covered to identify lead-based paint and asbestos containing materials

Ineligible grant sites and activities

- Federal or state Superfund sites
- Closed permitted landfills
- Renovations or expansions for single family homes
- Building abatement that does not end in demolition
- Hazardous materials cleanup and/or abatement
- Cleanup actions
- Radon and mold abatement

How to apply



Scan the QR code to access the application form at:
<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/grants-and-loans/grants-for-brownfield-investigation>.

Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.

Submit your application by email to: brownfieldgrants.MPCA@state.mn.us

Contact us

Brownfield grants
651-757-2904
brownfieldgrants.MPCA@state.mn.us

