

NEBRASKA BROWNFIELDS RESOURCES

WHAT IS A BROWNFIELD?

A brownfield is a property where expansion, redevelopment, or reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.

Brownfields are present in nearly every community, from dry cleaners and gas stations to vacant retail properties and former industrial sites. Nationally, the [Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980](#) (CERCLA, also known as Superfund) and the [Resource Conservation and Recovery Act](#) (RCRA) were established to address the threat of hazardous wastes sites and to prevent future contamination from occurring. Although some brownfield sites are governed by CERCLA or RCRA, most are regulated on a state level. In Nebraska, most brownfield sites fall under the oversight of the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE).



NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

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Section 128(a) Assessments

The NDEE Brownfields Program provides free Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments to help identify recognized environmental conditions and releases to the environment. Local and county governments, non-profits, and other public entities are all eligible to apply. The applicant does not need to be the property owner but must have access to the site. Most properties are eligible. Please contact the Department for additional information.

Section 128(a) Surveys

The NDEE Brownfields Program provides free surveys to test building materials for asbestos, lead-based paint, and mold. Local and county governments, non-profits, and other public entities are all eligible to apply. The applicant does not need to be the property owner but must have access to the site.

Section 128(a) Brownfields Inventories

The NDEE Brownfields program provides funding for local and county governments, non-profits, and other public entities to document all brownfield properties in a corridor, neighborhood, downtown, or other area slated for redevelopment. Costs to prepare the inventory report are completely covered by the program.

Voluntary Cleanup Program

The NDEE Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) is a fee-based cleanup program that provides a more streamlined alternative to traditional federal cleanup programs. Sites with contamination, owned by either private or public entities, may be enrolled in the VCP.

Section 128(a) Asbestos Cleanup Grants

The NDEE Brownfields Program provides cleanup grants for properties contaminated with asbestos, provided as a 50% cost match up to \$20,000 that is reimbursed after cleanup is complete. The site must be successfully enrolled in the program before any abatement work begins in order to be eligible for reimbursement. Local and county governments, non-profits, and other public entities not responsible for the asbestos are eligible to apply. Buildings on or eligible to be on the National Register of Historic Places may not be eligible. Determination from the State Historic Preservation Office is required.

Section 128(a) Cleanup Planning/ABCAs

The NDEE Brownfields Program covers costs to prepare Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA) reports, which are required to qualify for EPA 104(k) Brownfields Cleanup grants. Depending on available funding, NDEE may also provide financial assistance to defray costs related to soil cleanup/excavation projects. Local and county governments, non-profits, and other public entities not responsible for the contamination are eligible.

[Petroleum Release Remedial Action Cash Fund](#)

The Petroleum Release Remedial Action Cash Fund reimburses remedial action costs for releases from both underground and aboveground storage tank systems. Most responsible persons applying for funding will have a \$10,000 deductible and a 25% co-payment obligation of up to \$15,000. Petroleum releases with no responsible person may have cleanup done by a state contractor directed by the NDEE project manager at no cost to the property owner.

[Deconstruction Grants Program](#)

The Building Deconstruction program provides reimbursement for building deconstruction, with award amounts depending on the amount of building material that is reused or recycled. Cities, villages, and counties with a population of 5,000 or less may apply. The applicant must own the building to be eligible for consideration. Buildings on or eligible to be on the National Register of Historic Places may not be eligible. Determination from the State Historic Preservation Office is required. The application process opens in the summer each year.

[Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup Grant](#)

Local and county governments are eligible to apply for Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup grants, which can be used to defray the costs of cleanup, transport, and disposal of illegally dumped materials. The grant fund provides reimbursement for labor, mileage, and equipment rental costs (if required).

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

[NDEE One-Stop Permit Program](#)

The One-Stop Permit Assistance program serves as a clearinghouse for information related to NDEE's various permitting processes. This program helps businesses and industries understand which permits they are required to apply for, what information they will need to provide in the permit application, and the permit process. The One-Stop Program Coordinator acts as a single point of contact at NDEE for Nebraska businesses and brings together appropriate NDEE staff to address questions and concerns.

[EPA Technical Assistance to Brownfields \(TAB\)](#)

The EPA TAB program provides free technical assistance to communities on brownfields issues, with the goal of increasing the community's understanding and involvement in brownfield cleanup and revitalization, and helping put brownfield properties back to productive use. Kansas State University (KSU) is the TAB provider to Nebraska, as well as all of EPA Regions 5, 6, 7, and 8. KSU provides planning and redevelopment assistance, financial analysis, technical document review, community outreach assistance, online tools, and more.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Section 128(a) Assessments, Surveys, Asbestos Cleanup Grants, Brownfield Inventories, Cleanup Planning/ABCAs, Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP)
402-471-6411
ndee.vcpbrownfields@nebraska.gov

Deconstruction & Illegal Dumpsite Grants
402-471-2817
ndee.wastegrants@nebraska.gov

NDEE's One-Stop Permit Program
402-471-8697
ndee.assistance@nebraska.gov

Petroleum Release Remedial Action Cash Fund
402-471-3308
ndee.PetroleumRemediationSection@nebraska.gov

OTHER PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES

[Qualified Opportunity Zones](#)

[Nebraska USDA Rural Development](#)

[Nebraska Regional Officials Council](#)

[Scrap Tire Management](#)

[Clean Water State Revolving Fund](#)

[Drinking Water State Revolving Fund](#)

[Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant](#)

[Nebraska Department of Economic Development](#)