

Maine Brownfields by the Numbers

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Introduction

Blah Blah Blah Brownfields (De Sousa 2021).

Maine's Brownfield Process

Maine's Department of Environmental Protection has jurisdiction over the administration of brownfield redevelopment in the state (Maine Department of Environmental Protection 2018).

Redevelopment Funding

Private Financing

EPA Funding.

The U.S. EPA has multiple separate categories of funding that support brownfields redevelopment including Targeted Brownfields Assessments, 128a State and Tribal Non-competitive Grants, the competitive grants program, and Brownfields Revolving Loan Funds (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 2016a).

Targeted Brownfields Assessments (TAB) - In the event that communities have a potential brownfield that requires assessing but no state or regional funds are currently available, the EPA will pay for an assessment directly in the form of Targeted Brownfields Assessments, or TABs. TAB funds are controlled by EPA regional offices and are paid directly to QEPs for either Phase I or Phase II assessments.

128a State & Tribal Non-competitive Grants - CERCLA Section 128(a) provides a funding mechanism for EPA to provide states, territories, and federally recognized tribes with non-competitive funding for state response programs (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 2022).

Competitive Grants -

Brownfields Revolving Loan Funds -

Other Federal Funding

A number of U.S. federal agencies supply funding for economic development, and EPA funds are often leveraged to secure redevelopment funding from these sources as well (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 2016b). These sources include:

U.S. Housing & Urban Development -

U.S. Economic Development Administration -

U.S. Department of Agriculture -

State Funding

Data Sources

United States EPA – Data on brownfields sites where the EPA has contributed to assessment, cleanup, or redevelopment is stored in the Assessment, Cleanup and Redevelopment Exchange System¹ (ACRES) database, which is maintained by EPA’s Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization (OBLR). Grantees who receive any funds from OBLR are required to report expenditures, assessment results, and other property information through ACRES. Data from ACRES is made public twice per year through EPA’s Cleanups in My Community² (CIMC) tool. A bulk download from the ACRES database was requested from OBLR for all Brownfield sites in Maine, to circumvent the need to scrape property information from individual property pages. This data was provided on June 20th 2024. The data received contained information on all cooperative agreements and grants attributable to work done on a property including the amount of funding attributable to the property per grant, the purpose of each grant (assessment, clean up, supplemental, etc.), contaminants found during assessment, and amount leveraged per property. I refer to this data as “ACRES data” for the remainder of the report.

Maine DEP The MDEP maintains a vast array of databases, including those on air and water quality and land remediation sites. I pull data from two of these sources:

- *Remediation Sites (Institutional Controls) Database*³ – A geodatabase of remediation sites in Maine. It includes uncontrolled sites, voluntary response action program sites, and brownfields sites. This database was accessed on March 19th 2025.
- *Division of Remediation Site List*⁴ – PDF list of all sites.

The *Division of Remediation Site list* was accessed in addition to the RSD because some of the sites were not included.

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) – Using descriptions of former property uses provided by grantees, all former property uses were classified using 2022 NAICS classifications, resulting in a past use industry profile for each property. NAICS codes were found on the U.S. Census Bureau’s website⁵ and the NAICS association website⁶. If former use descriptions were inconclusive, town and regional planning websites were consulted or previous grantees were contacted to acquire any Phase I PSAs. In the event past uses remained elusive or it was found that the property was previously a single-family residential property or undeveloped land, the property as “Unknown”, “residential property”, or “undeveloped land”, respectively.

Data Cleaning and Final Data set

- *urban* - Brownfields are classified as “urban” if they are located within a geographic area designated as urban by the U.S. Census Bureau according to the 2020 Decennial Census.⁷

¹<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/acres-frequently-asked-questions>

²<https://www.epa.gov/cleanups/cleanups-my-community>

³<https://maine.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=666a7a20993e43edaf1b6bbdc749d054> - Note: This linked geodatabase is updated weekly and may include sites not included in this report as of publication

⁴https://www.maine.gov/dep/gis/datamaps/brwm_remediation_sites/rpt_rem_site_list.pdf - Note: This list is updated weekly and may include sites not included in this report as of publication

⁵<https://www.census.gov/naics/>

⁶<http://naics.com/>

⁷Urban boundary files were retrieved on from <https://www.census.gov/geographies/mapping-files/time-series/geo/tiger-line-file.html#list-tab-790442341> on 03/26/2025

Program Characteristics by the Numbers

Androscoggin

Aroostook

Cumberland

Franklin

Hancock

Kennebec

Knox

Lincoln

Oxford

Penobscott

Piscataquis

Sagadahoc

Somerset

Waldo

Washington

York

Tribal Brownfields

References

- De Sousa, Christopher. 2021. *Sustainable Brownfield Development: Building a Sustainable Future on Sites of Our Polluting Past*. 1st Edition. New York: Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429342783>.
- Maine Department of Environmental Protection. 2018. “DEP Issue Profile for Brownfields Program.” <https://www.maine.gov/dep/spills/brownfields/ipbrownfields.html>.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2016a. *Setting the Stage for Leveraging Resources for Brownfields Revitalization*. Guidance Document. EPA 560-K-16-001. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- . 2016b. “Leveraging Resources for Brownfields Revitalization: Meet the Funders - Economic Development.” <https://clu-in.org/conf/tio/BFLeveraging2/>.
- . 2022. *EPA Brownfields and Land Revitalization CERCLA Section 128(a) State and Tribal Response Program Funding*. Fact Sheet. EPA-560-F-22-298. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-09/updated_128a_fact_sheet_final_080422.pdf.