



## Charleston County News Release

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### **EPA Awards County \$400,000 in Grants to Clean Up Brownfields**

*Funds will enable County to revitalize contaminated properties*

In a highly competitive grant application process, [Charleston County Government](#) has been awarded two [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) Brownfield Assessment Grants](#) totaling \$400,000 (\$200,000 to assess hazardous substances and \$200,000 to assess petroleum issues).

The EPA's Brownfields Program provides funding to assess, safely clean up and reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property that has the presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant. The [Brownfields Revitalization Act](#) was passed in 2002 to help states and communities clean up and revitalize brownfields sites.

The County will use the federal grant funds to further neighborhood revitalization by identifying sites located in residential areas that are in need of redevelopment and to further economic development by working to create a redevelopment plan for industrial and commercial sites.

"Once we identify the sites, we can enhance the strength of the surrounding neighborhoods and economic development initiatives. Doing so will promote the redevelopment and reuse of properties that were previously unusable because environmental issues prevented their sale," said Christine DuRant, Assistant County Administrator for [Charleston County Community Services](#). "Brownfield assessments will help us identify contaminated sites and determine the potential risks they pose, which are the first steps in transforming blighted properties into productive sites."

For additional information regarding brownfields, visit:

- EPA Brownfields: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>
- Brownfields law: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/laws/index.htm>
- EPA basic information on brownfields: [http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/basic\\_info.htm#plan](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/basic_info.htm#plan)

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