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## OUTLINE

Section 1: What are Brownfields? Section 2:
How does a
Community get
Started?

Section 3: How can UConn TAB help?







## WHAT IS A BROWNFIELD?

#### **EPA Definition:**

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

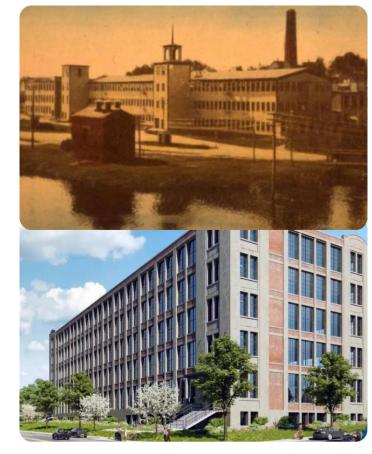
In plain language...A site that is completely or partially abandoned AND Is likely polluted from past human activities

#### How to Identify a Brownfield:

An area with blight, or deterioration such as: Abandoned buildings, eyesores, active but underutilized facilities



Before



After

The Sanford Mill was formerly used for the manufacture of fabrics, light bulbs, and plastic products which resulted in a range of environmental contaminants including semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) and PCBs along with the building containing lead-based paint and asbestos

Redeveloped into a mix-use housing and commercial building





## SO, WHAT'S NOT A BROWNFIELD?



Active facilities of any kind, even if contamination is suspected



Residential buildings without Hazardous Building Materials



Superfund (NPL) sites

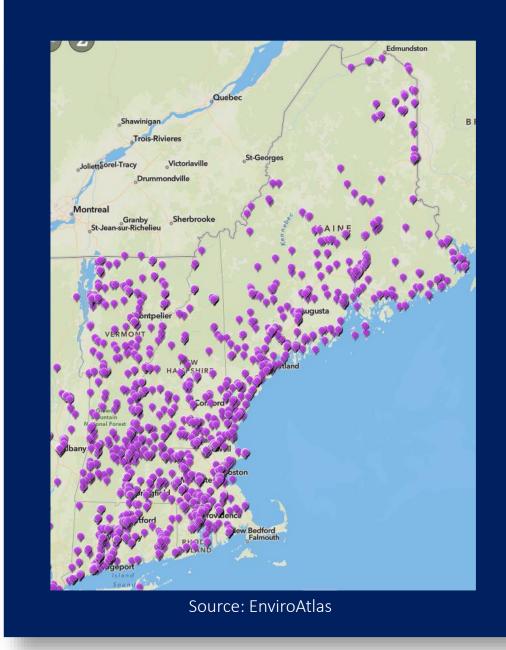


Sites under federal jurisdiction (DoD, DoE etc.)





There are over 3000 brownfields that have been formally identified in New England but many remain unlisted







## **BROWNFIELDS IMPACT NEGATIVELY...**

















## BROWNFIELD INVENTORY



Reported Releases



Site Reconnaissance



Tax Delinquency



Sanborn Maps



**Known Sites** 



Existing Brownfield Lists



Site Name	Site Size (acres)	Opportunity Zone
Address	Current Zoning	EJ Community
Zip Code	Current Owner	Past Uses
Assessors Card ID number	Owner Type	Public Utilities
Parcel Number	Tax Payment Status	Parking Spaces
Redevelopment Status	Existing Buildings	Available Site Documents
Site Type	FEMA Flood Zone	EPA Grant Eligibility
Site Source	LUST Designation	Possible Contamination
Wetlands	Vulnerability Index	





# PRIORITIZING AND CONSIDERING THE FUTURE REUSE GOALS OF BROWNFIELD SITES

- Prioritization can be based on many factors, but the community should always have an input!
  - Location, Ownership, Reuse goals, Readiness for Redevelopment, Etc.
- Communicate EARLY and OFTEN with the community about
  - Project Vision
  - Knowing & Prioritizing Brownfields
  - Future Reuse



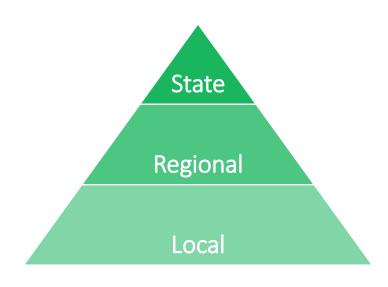






## **IDENTIFY YOUR TEAM**











#### BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT SIMPLIFIED PROCESS









- Identify the site(s)
- Secure access to the property
- Identify sources of funding
- Employ a site assessment to determine the necessary cleanup needed
- Work with community to identify redevelopment options

#### Clean Up

- All Appropriate Inquiries
- Complete Assessments and Identify a remedial action plan
- Aquire Property (town or nonprofit)
- Work with the community to get them involved early and often
- Identify sources of funding for cleanup

#### Redevelopment

- Conduct market analysis and due diligence on site usability
- Work with community to incorporate their needs into redevelopment plan
- Find a developer and begin development

Inform, Involve and Consult Local Community





#### BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT SIMPLIFIED PROCESS



## These steps take time!

But not to worry, that's why we are here to help make the process more seamless and help ensure the communities' vision.







## TYPES OF EPA BROWNFIELD GRANTS

#### **Federal Funding**

- Targeted Brownfields Assessment
- Job Training
- Technical Assistance
- State and Tribal Response Programs
- Land Revitalization Technical Assistance
- CERCLA Section 128(a) Technical Assistance Grants (TAG)
- MARC Grants



#### Eligible Entities(Refer to Guidelines)

- Municipalities & Local Governments
- Non-profits
- State and Tribal Entities
- Regional Agencies
- Redevelopment Agency
- -EPA grant applicant is NOT liable for contamination

These grants are competitive





## STATE GRANTS

All States: 128(a) Infrastructure Law (BIL Funding)





#### Connecticut

- <u>DECD</u>
- regularly announces grant and loan brownfield programs. Open solicitations and a tentative schedule for future solicitations are found on the OBRD main page.

#### **Maine**

- DEP
- MEDEP provides funds to municipalities assist with site investigation and cleanup. For site investigation, MEDEP assigns a consultant under contract to conduct the investigation. Cleanup grants have a ceiling of \$50,000. Forms to apply for each of the grants are available on the Brownfields Program website.

#### Massachusetts

- MassDevelopment & MassDEP
- In Massachusetts state and federal agencies work closely together to ensure that parties undertaking brownfields projects receive the maximum benefit of available funding and technical assistance





## STATE GRANTS

All States: 128(a) Infrastructure Law (BIL Funding)

#### New Hampshire

- DES
- NH provides three types of funding programs: technical assistance for investigation, clean up grants (up to \$200K on biannual basis) and access to a Revolving Loan Fund for low-interest loans.

#### **Rhode Island**

- RIDEM
- the state periodically releases Request for Proposals for the Brownfields Remediation and Economic Development Fund.

#### **Vermont**

- BRELLA & DEC
- VTDEC provides technical and financial assistance for all aspects of site investigation, cleanup and planning.











# Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants program Community Change Grants

- EPA has announced NOFO for \$2 billion in inflation reduction act funds in environmental and climate justice activities to benefit disadvantaged communities
  - Build community capacity to address environmental and climate justice challenges
  - Reduce pollution
  - Increase community climate resilience
- Eligible Entities
  - A partnership between two community-based non-profit organizations(CBOs)
  - A partnership between a CBO and a Federally-Recognized Tribe, a local government, or an institution of higher education
- Deadline: November 21, 2024





## **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GRANTS**

#### Environmental and Climate Justice (ECJ) program

• provides funding for financial and technical assistance to carry out environmental and climate justice activities to benefit underserved and overburdened communities.

#### The Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (EJCPS) Cooperative Agreement Program

 provides financial assistance to eligible organizations working to address local environmental or public health issues in their communities.

#### The Environmental Justice Government-to-Government (EJG2G) Program

• provides funding at the state, local, territorial, and tribal level to support government activities that lead to measurable environmental or public health impacts in communities disproportionately burdened by environmental harms

#### The Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking (EJ TCGM) Program

• competition to select multiple Grantmakers around the nation to reduce barriers to the application process communities face and increase the efficiency of the awards process for environmental justice grants

#### The Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (EJ TCTAC) Program

• technical assistance centers across the nation providing technical assistance, training, and related support to communities with environmental justice concerns and their partners.

#### The Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

supports and empowers communities working on solutions to local environmental and public health issues







## ARE YOU READY TO APPLY?

 Do you have a reuse plan? Has the community been involved in determining this?





#### Why is this a helpful resource?

- Knowing the potential site reuse helps
  - plan efficient characterization and cleanup of contamination
  - Target appropriate real estate markets
  - Understand any barriers and assets exist on site
  - Determine the range of sustainable reuse options











## SITE REUSE ASSESSMENT PROJECTS

GOAL: Identify potential reuse options for the brownfield based on the community's vision and other site and surrounding area conditions

Provides a full evaluation of the opportunities, constraints and range of redevelopment possibilities related to the reuse of a brownfield site.

#### Property Information

- Ownership
- History
- Tax status
- Occupancy
- Zoning
- Environmental Considerations

## Opportunities & Constraints

- Useable Acreage
- Viability
- Accessibility
- Structure
- Infrastructure
- Utilities
- Neighboring Land Use

#### Community

- Strengths & Weaknesses
- Expectations

#### Market

- Local Economy
- Regional Economy
- Demographics
- Land Availability

- Site characteristics and needs
- Area economy and demographics
- Physical, environmental conditions
- Applicable regulations
- Real estate market conditions







## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - "EARLY & OFTEN!"**



Convene a public reuse visioning session



Identify Stakeholders



Understand community needs



Explore possible reuses



**SWOT Analysis** 



Shared Vision & Goals



Link goals to the "WHY"

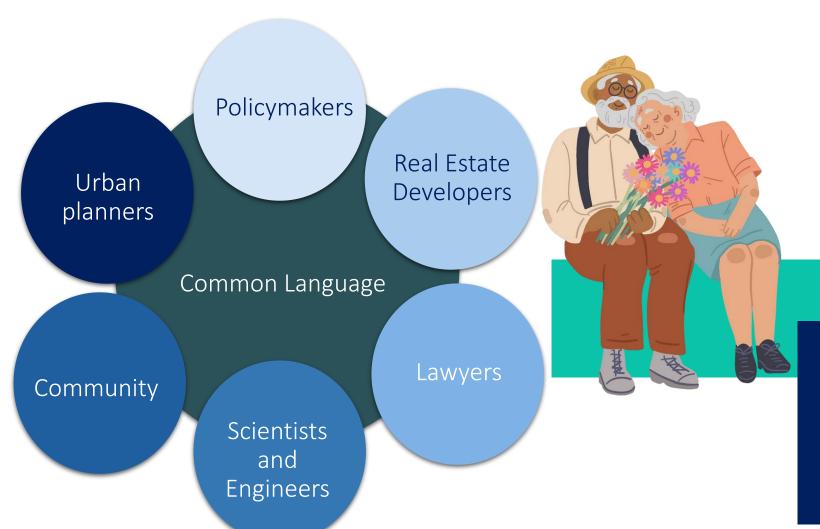


Online tools for public input





## THINK ABOUT WAYS TO BE ACCESSIBLE & INCLUSIVE!





- Consider your demographics!
- Translation services: meetings and documents
- Accessibility: ADA and convenient location
- Childcare & Food
- Accessibility: Information







## BENEFITS OF EQUITABLE BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT

Environmental Justice

Sustainable Development

Community Engagement



Former Textile Mill, Willimantic, CT (Recreation)



Mayo Mill, Dover-Foxcroft, ME (Mixuse Housing)



- Workforce & Business Development
- Neighborhood Connectivity, Transit, Access & Safety
- Healthy Communities
- Youth Opportunities
- Housing Security



Bartlett Station, Boston MA (Mixuse Housing)



Economic

Growth



## ATTRACTING A DEVELOPER

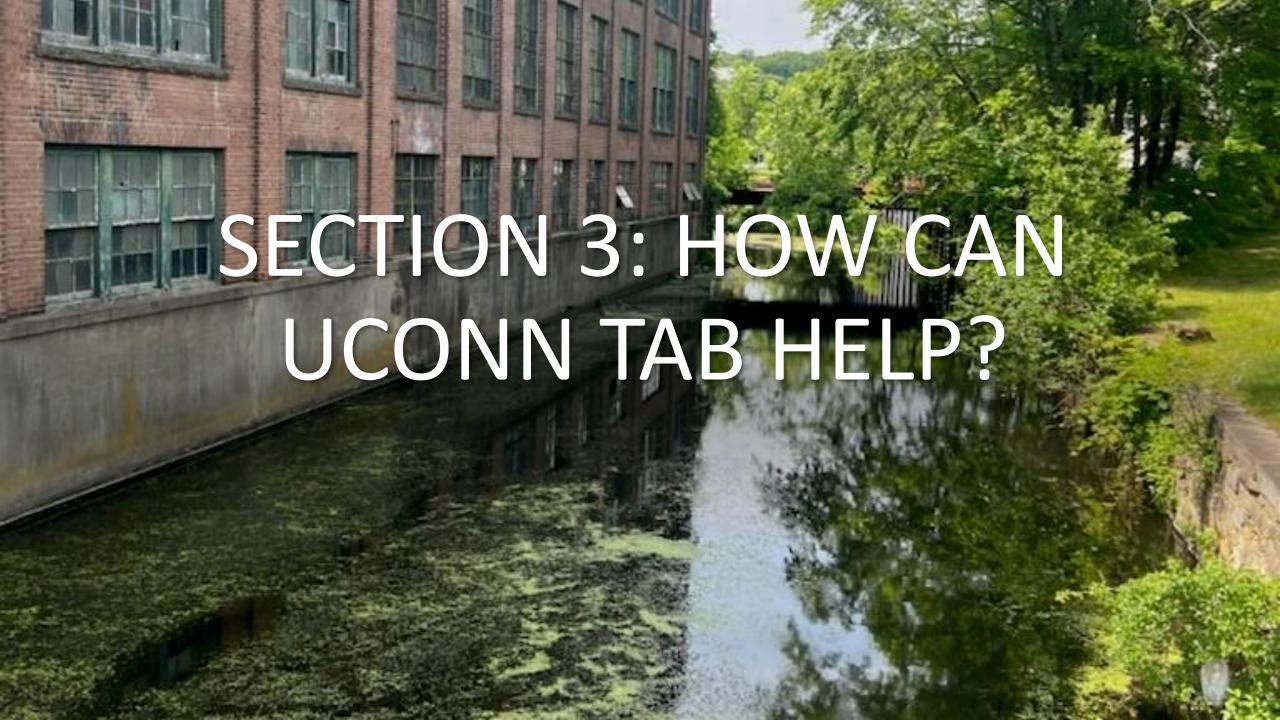


**Example: CCLR Property Profile Sheets** 

- Market Analysis
- Marketing: Community & Site
- Site Reuse Assessments
- Work early on with Planning and Zoning and other relevant commissions
- Identify any tax breaks available and other types of funding for site redevelopment (HUD, CDBG, other federal agency programs)
- Webpage: Inviting & Current
- Expand your network → Develop relationships with State Brownfield coordinator, RPOs, Economic Development Corps







## MEET OUR TEAM



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## **OUR SERVICES AT A GLANCE**



Equal Distribution of Resources in all 6 New England States and Tribes







## DIRECT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Technical Document Review

 Review of Environmental Site Assessment Reports, Remedial Action Plans, Planning Documents

Brownfields Proposals Review

• EPA Brownfields proposals (assessment, cleanup, multipurpose, RLF) and State Program proposals

Access to Resources & Procurement Support

 Fact sheets, example proposals, RFQ/RFP review, and documents

Online Office Hours

• Answer Technical Questions





## MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



Community

info & input







UCONN Students

Technical Work

**TAB Staff** 

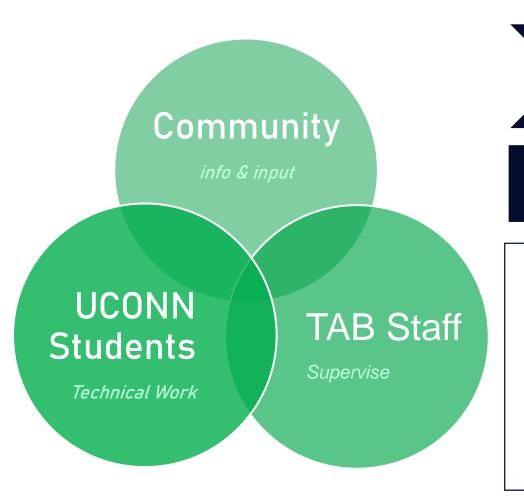
Supervise





REGION 1 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELDS

## MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



Sep-Dec

Jan-April

May-Aug

EPA Brownfields
Grant Support

Target Area and Brownfield Site Description

Community Need (Demographics, EJSCREEN data)

#### **TECHNICAL SUPPORT**

Brownfield inventories

Data Review and Gap Analysis for brownfield sites

**Grant Preparation** 

Site reuse planning

Community Engagement Planning and Materials





## **UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES**

- Spring Webinars
  - Jan 29<sup>th</sup> Brownfield Redevelopment & TAB Services
  - Feb 19<sup>th</sup> Brownfields: Exploring Disproportionate Environmental Impacts on Communities
  - Mar 11<sup>th</sup> Community Engagement in Aging Communities
  - Apr 16<sup>th</sup> Using Brownfield Funding for Local Planning (A Planner's Perspective)
  - May 1<sup>st</sup> Planning for a Successful Fall EPA Brownfield Grant Application: Don't Wait Until September!
- Procurement Support
  - Provide templates, resources, and review
- Grant Support
  - Support with prep and planning for Fall EPA applications
- Summer MAP
  - Applications open in April



