

Example of UConn TAB engagement activity in local library - to educate students on brownfields and strengthen sense of place & community

UConn TAB Community Engagement Services

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Agenda

- ✓ Community Engagement Overview
 - I. UConn TAB: Role & Services
 - II. Community Engagement in Brownfields
 - III. What is Meaningful Community Engagement?
- ✓ TAB Community Engagement Services
 - I. Review TABs Resources and Implementation
- ✓ Q&A



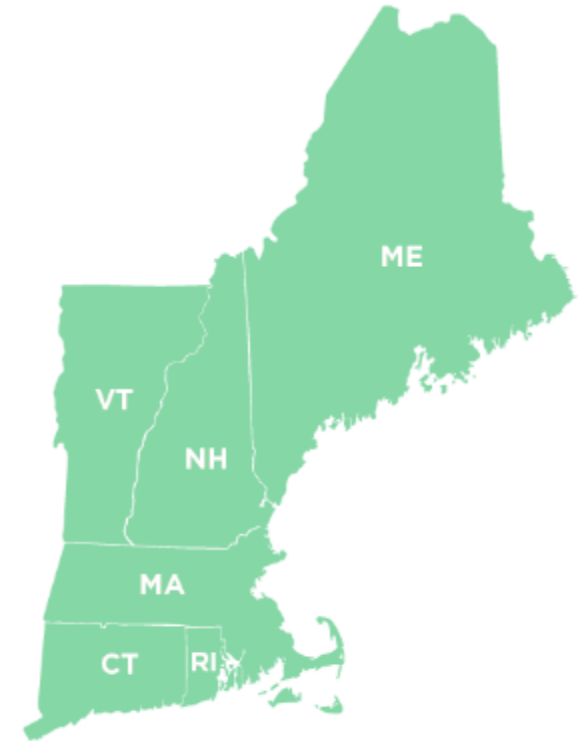
What is UConn TAB?

Technical Assistance to Brownfields

Our Role:

- Provide technical assistance to communities, states, Tribal Nations and other public entities
- Help address brownfield issues, increase community understanding and involvement in brownfields cleanup, explore reuse options that meet community needs
- TAB is available at no cost to communities
- **UConn TAB** serves EPA Region 1 (New England)

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



Geographic Diversity

Rural & Urban Communities,
Small and Larger Towns, Cities



UConn TAB's Community Engagement Team



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NERHA Partnership



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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SERVICES

Free resources to assist with your brownfield community engagement goals - available anytime on TAB's website!



Tools & Guides



Public Meetings & Presentations

Our team can support you in planning public meetings: advertising, presenting, and tips and tricks

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Anti-Displacement, Affordable Housing, and Environmental Health



Community Pages, Social Media, & Online Engagement

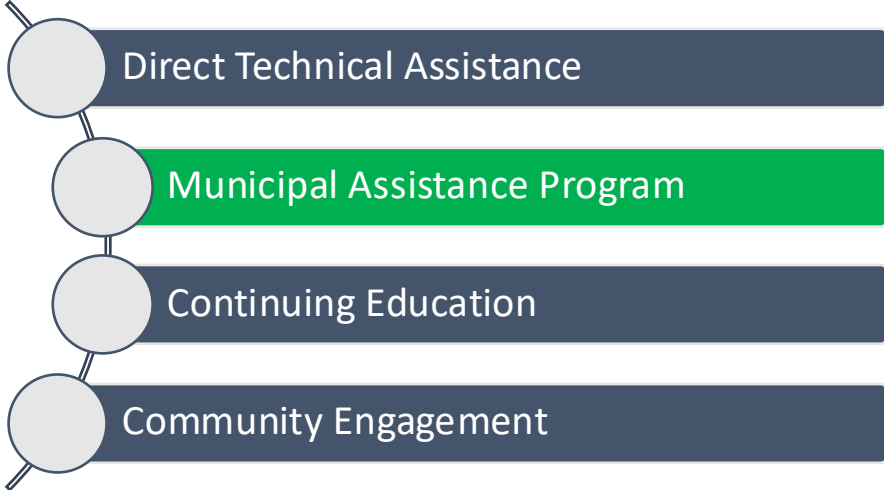
We can create social media posts and help with online communication to ensure all residents stay informed on brownfields projects.

EMAIL US AT UConn-TAB@UConn.edu TO SET UP A MEETING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR SERVICES AND GET STARTED!



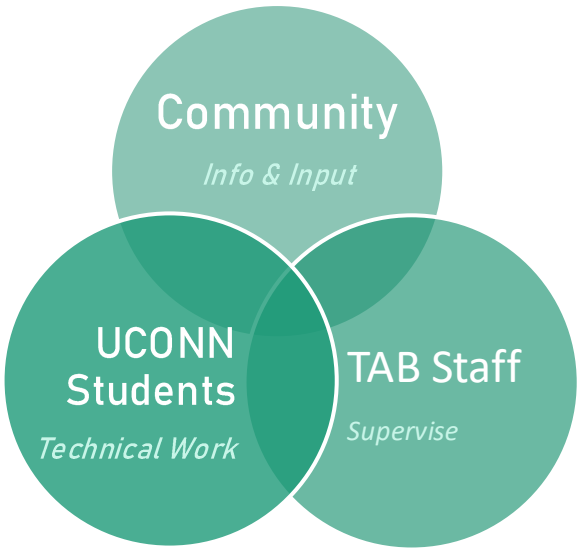
MAP – SERVICE LEARNING COURSE

STRONG COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS



EPA Brownfields Grant Support

TECHNICAL SUPPORT




Target Area and Brownfield Site Description
Community Need (Demographics)

Brownfield inventories
Data Review and Gap Analysis for brownfield sites
Grant Preparation
Site reuse planning
Community Engagement Planning and Materials



Resource Customization – East Hampton, CT




BROWNFIELDS IN EAST HAMPTON: WHAT ARE THEY?

WHAT ARE BROWNFIELDS?
Brownfields are inactive properties that are partially or completely abandoned, underutilized, and likely contaminated or polluted from past human activities

- Examples: abandoned gas stations, dry cleaners, mills, warehouses, and vacant lots

Brownfields can negatively impact public health, environmental safety, and the local economy. Redevelopment can be a long, complicated process - but a very important one.



HOW DOES THIS IMPACT EAST HAMPTON?

THE FUNDING & THE BROWNFIELD SITES:

East Hampton received:

- **\$500,000** Community-Wide Assessment Grant through the Environmental Protection Agency
- **\$200,000** Assessment Grant from the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development

This combined **\$700,000** in assessment funding will be between 2024-2028. The assessments will help the Town better understand the site contamination present and the amount and level of cleanup needed. Assessment is the first step in getting the properties ready for redevelopment. See info on the properties below:

13 SUMMIT ST:

Built in 1880 as a textile mill, the site later faced failed redevelopment efforts, a 2016 fire, and condemnation in 2017 due to safety issues. The Town of East Hampton acquired the property in 2022 and is now seeking proposals for its future use in the Historic Village Center.

1 WATROUS ST:

The former East Mill of Summit Thread was later used for wire manufacturing, storage, and auto repair before being acquired by the town, cleaned up, and environmentally assessed. The town-owned property is now for sale.

13 WATROUS ST:

Formerly Summit Thread's boiler house and later an auto body shop, this site was acquired by the town and underwent grant-funded cleanup, soil remediation, and demolition. The site is stabilized and fenced but requires further remediation before reuse.

3 WALNUT AVE:

Once home to the East Hampton Bell Company (est. 1851) and earlier Cook's grist mill, this site includes a historic dam. Following environmental assessment, water tower removal, and demolition, it is now a vacant grassy lot with many reuse possibilities.



BROWNFIELDS IN EAST HAMPTON: HOW DO WE GET STARTED?



Brownfields redevelopment requires time, funding, resources, cooperation, and community involvement. Some challenges within this process can include liability concerns, strict regulations, financing issues, difficulties with site conditions, and more.

So why do it?

BENEFITS OF REDEVELOPMENT

- Protects human health and ecosystems
- Boosts local economy
- Creates stronger, more sustainable communities.
- Preserves nature and open space,
- Creates jobs and housing opportunities
- Provides much-needed amenities and resources for towns and cities

BROWNFIELD SIMPLIFIED REDEVELOPMENT PROCESS:

ASSESSMENT

Your municipality, regional planning commission, or a local non-profit will apply for a grant to assess brownfields sites for contamination.

CLEANUP

Once brownfield sites are assessed, communities can apply for cleanup grants to clean up any identified contamination on the site.

REDEVELOPMENT

The community works to revitalize the site for public benefit. Promoting safer, healthier, and more vibrant places in the community!

EAST HAMPTON IS LOOKING FOR PUBLIC FEEDBACK TO HELP PLAN REUSE OPTIONS.

Together, we can build a community-driven future for the Village Center that benefits East Hampton residents!

For more information, visit the link, scan the QR code, or use the contact information below:



MAP Example – Marblehead, MA

- ✓ UConn TAB presented on our current work, basic brownfields information, site information, zoning, and redevelopment options
- ✓ Conducted a listening session and created a survey for public feedback
- ✓ Will implement public feedback into Site Reuse Renderings



Image of Community Meeting in Marblehead, MA led by UConn TAB.
Photo by Luca Tedesco

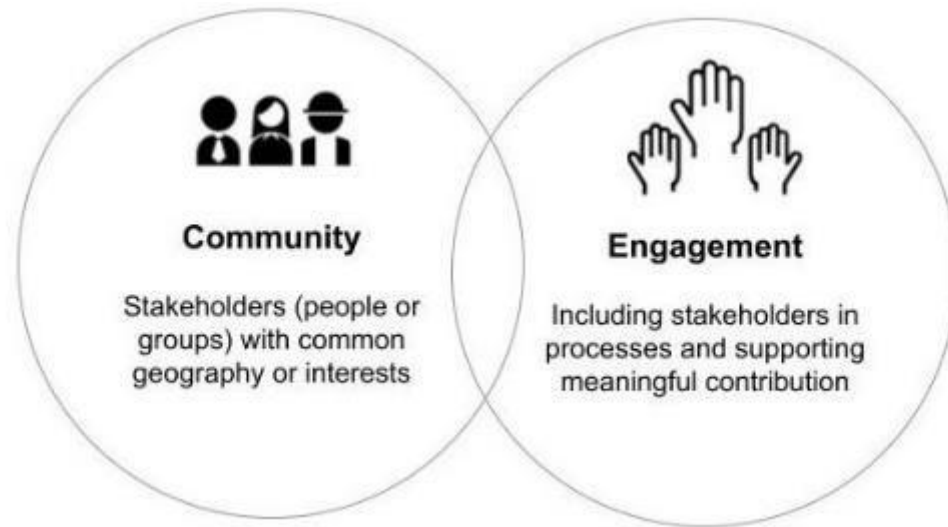


Image of example UConn TAB Site Reuse Assessment rendering, showcasing housing and green space.



Community Engagement in Brownfields

- Community engagement refers to people, governments, and organizations working collaboratively through the brownfield's redevelopment process to:
 - Establish and uphold a community vision
 - Support underserved populations
 - Create sustainable outcomes



When Does Community Engagement Happen?

Early and Often!

Assessment

- Brownfields education
- Community visioning sessions, surveys
- Identify stakeholders

Cleanup

- Public meetings (listening sessions, focus groups)
- Gaining buy-in at community events

Redevelopment

- Keeping the public informed – open communication
- Solidify anti-displacement strategy







什麼是棕地？ —— 關鍵要點概覽 ——

棕地定義 (美國國家環境保護局):

「指在進行擴建、重新開發或再利用時，可能受到有害物質、污染物或污染源之存在 (或潛在存在) 影響之不動產資產。」

什麼是棕地？

- 泛指處於閒置狀態、部分或完全廢棄、利用率低下，且極可能因過往人類活動而遭受污染或損害之物業
- 案例說明：廢棄加油站，乾洗店，工廠，倉儲設施，工業建築，閒置地塊

目前在新英格蘭地區已識別出逾 3,000 處棕地場址，惟仍有大量場址尚未列冊。這正是深入了解此領域具備高度重要性的原因!

影響 ---



棕地可能對人類健康、生態系統、地方經濟增長及社區活力產生負面衝擊。

聯絡我們

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🌐 <https://tab.program.uconn.edu/>

🌐 <https://www.linkedin.com/in/uconn-tab/>

歡迎隨時與我們聯繫!

棕地再開發簡化流程:

評估



由地方政府、區域規劃委員會或當地非營利組織向 EPA 申請撥款，旨在對棕地場址進行環境污染評估。

清理



場址完成評估後，社區可申請 EPA 清理資助金，以針對已識別之污染進行整治。

重新開發



社區致力於活化場址以創造公眾效益，旨在打造更安全、更健康且更具活力的環境!

重建的益處

棕地再開發能有效推動經濟增長、提升公共衛生水準並保護生態環境。此為涉及多方協作之長期工程，參與者包括：地方政府、州政府及聯邦機構、城市規劃師、法律顧問、工程師、房地產開發商，以及.....您！社區成員是核心利益相關者，您的參與和意見至關重要。

Brownfields 101 in Cantonese

Community Engagement is Important in Brownfields Redevelopment

Underserved groups have historically been left out of decision-making processes regarding their environment and health

- Sensitive populations are disproportionately impacted by environmental hazards (including proximity to brownfields)

Brownfields redevelopment can be an opportunity to improve environmental health, build strong community networks, empower residents, and create positive, sustainable change

- OR it can exacerbate social issues and contribute to harmful consequences

Community Engagement is key to equitable, sustainable, inclusive brownfields redevelopment projects



Please reach out with any questions. Thank you!



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