



State of Vermont
BROWNFIELDS

BROWNFIELD REUSE & ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITY LIMITATION PROGRAM

**SUMMARY
DESCRIPTION
OF PROGRAM**

A brownfield is defined as real property where the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of the property may be complicated by the release or threatened release of a hazardous material. The Brownfields program was established to help overcome real or perceived impediments with these properties.

One of the impediments to redevelopment of a brownfield is fear of legal liability for pre-existing environmental contamination. In Vermont, as in other states, owners of contaminated property may be liable for cleanup regardless of whether or not they caused the contamination. Liability for cleanup can continue even after a property is sold. Participation in Vermont’s environmental liability limitation program provides a way out of the liability chain and enables redevelopment to proceed knowing that legal and financial risks associated with contamination have been quantified.

The unknown cost to assess and remediate a brownfield is a large impediment also. Financial assistance may be available for developers to assist with environmental assessment and cleanup activities on brownfield sites.

The Brownfields program staff are available to assist developers with the process, steps and options available to them when they are considering purchase and redevelopment of a brownfield site.

**CRITERIA FOR
JURISDICTION**

The environmental liability limitation program is established under the Brownfield Reuse and Environmental Liability Limitation Act codified at [10 V.S.A. §6641-§6656](#). Participation in the program is open to persons who intend to purchase a brownfield property, as well as persons who already own a brownfield property, provided that they did not cause, contribute or worsen the contamination or owned the property when a release occurred.

**INFORMATION
REQUIRED**

A notarized application consisting of applicant, property, and reuse information is required. Public notice of enrollment and redevelopment plans are required.

WEB ADDRESS

<http://dec.vermont.gov/waste-management/contaminated-sites/brownfields>

FEES

Application processing fee - \$500

**APPLICATION
TIME FRAME**

The performance standard for processing a complete application is 30 days.

**ADMINISTERING
AGENCY**

<p style="text-align: center;">AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION WASTE MANAGEMENT & PREVENTION DIVISION SITES MANAGEMENT SECTION</p> <p>CONTACT: Patricia Coppolino Patricia.Coppolino@vermont.gov 802-249-5822</p> <p>ADDRESS: Department of Environmental Conservation Waste Management & Prevention Division One National Life Drive – Davis 1 Montpelier, Vermont 05620-3704</p>

AUTHORITY

[10 V.S.A. §6641-§6656](#)

**GUIDANCE
DOCUMENTS &
PROCEDURES**

<http://dec.vermont.gov/waste-management/contaminated-sites/guidance>