

# Yaquina Bay Community Brownfields Revitalization Initiative



A Coalition, led by the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments and including Newport, Toledo, the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz, and Lincoln County, has been awarded a **\$600,000 EPA Brownfields Planning Grant**.

The grant is intended to support Brownfields property redevelopment. With community participation, the Coalition will identify and prioritize opportunity sites, to promote economic development and improve community livability.

## What is a Brownfield?

**Brownfields are properties that are not being used to their full potential because of known or suspected environmental pollution.**



**Brownfields are often abandoned by property owners due to fears about the liability and expense of assessment and cleanup.**

**Cleaning up and reinvesting in Brownfields protects the environment, reduces blight, and takes development pressures off greenspaces and working lands.**

### Opportunities for **Property Owners**:

- Increase property value.
- Access free support to property assessment.
- Grants/loans may be available for cleanup and redevelopment.
- Each step toward cleanup leverages financing and development interest.

### Opportunities for the **Community**:

- Have a voice in shaping the future of community development.
- Support economic development.
- Enhance livability and public health.
- Support development of affordable housing and businesses that bring new jobs.

EPA studies show that on average, **7.3 jobs are created** for every \$100,000 of EPA Brownfields dollars invested.

## Frequently Asked Questions:



### ***Why should I conduct an environmental assessment of my property?***

- Banks typically require an environmental assessment before lending to a buyer.
- Assessments can be the first step on the path to increasing a property's market value.
- An assessment can help owners who are redeveloping their own property plan for unexpected contingencies like contaminated soil or underground storage tanks.
- Conducting assessments eliminates "unknowns", reducing environmental constraints to a manageable level.
- An environmental assessment can verify that a property is not contaminated.

### ***What kinds of properties are potentially eligible to use the funds?***

- Public and privately owned properties
- Active, underutilized, vacant, and abandoned properties
- Sites with known or perceived petroleum and/or hazardous substance issues

### ***What activities can the grant pay for?***

- Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments
- Cleanup Planning
- Redevelopment Planning/Market Analysis/Pro Forma

### ***What activities does the grant NOT pay for?***

- Environmental assessment or cleanup work already completed
- Cleanup implementation (soil removal, groundwater treatment, etc.)
- Property purchase

### ***How long will the funds be available?***

- The funds will be available until at least the fall of 2020

**For More Information:**

**Phil Warnock**

**Cascades West Council of Governments / 541.924.8474 / [pwarnock@ocwcog.org](mailto:pwarnock@ocwcog.org)**