

# EPA's Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Communities Program

Transforming environmental eyesore, hazards and liabilities into community assets

## What is TAB?

The Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Communities Program helps communities, states, tribes and others understand risks associated with contaminated or potentially contaminated properties, called brownfields, and learn how to assess, safely clean up and sustainably reuse them.

EPA funds six organizations—**Kansas State University (KSU), the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), the Center for Creative Land Recycling (CCLR), West Virginia University Research Corporation, the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and the University of Connecticut**—to serve as independent sources of technical assistance. Each of these TAB providers has an extensive network of partners, contractors and other contacts that provides services across the country. They help communities tackle a variety of challenges related to identifying, assessing, cleaning up and redeveloping brownfields.

## TAB Providers Help Communities

TAB providers serve as an independent resource and can provide expert technical assistance to help communities understand:

- How to acquire, assess, clean up and redevelop brownfield properties;
- How to plan outreach to engage affected neighbors and residents;
- How science and technology are used for site assessment, remediation, redevelopment and reuse; and
- How to comply with voluntary cleanup requirements.

TAB Providers can offer assistance with:

- Preparing grant applications;
- Performing site inventories;
- Reviewing historical information;
- Designing the investigation/ sampling/ field analysis; and
- Supporting cleanup and redevelopment planning.

## Examples of TAB Assistance

### **Brownfields Planning in St. Louis, Missouri**

KSU TAB providers conducted workshops where city officials and others interested in brownfields worked together to determine local capacity to address blight and vacancy and support St. Louis in redevelopment planning efforts.

### **Taking Inventory in Towaoc, Colorado**

KSU TAB providers imported data for more than 100 sites into the Brownfield Inventory Tool, a free, Web-based resource that helps record environmental and administrative information on local brownfields to assist the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. The tool is available at [www.ksutab.org](http://www.ksutab.org).

### **Interpreting Technical Reports in Providence, Rhode Island**

NJIT TAB providers reviewed and interpreted several site investigation reports for the Environmental Justice League of Rhode Island. They explained site contamination and its potential impacts to residents and assisted in developing a timeline for cleanup. NJIT TAB provided several documents identifying the most significant potential public health threats and assessing environmental activities that took place at the brownfield site.

### **Conducting Community Focus Groups in Gresham, Oregon**

CCLR TAB providers and partners assisted the Rockwood Community Development Corporation in hosting a visioning workshop to brainstorm long-term goals and strategies to revitalize a community park. The community generated a collective vision and paved the way for the transformation of the park into a vibrant and valuable community asset.

### **Identifying Financing in Richmond, California**

CCLR TAB providers helped the city restructure a project's finances to fund site cleanup. Onsite contamination, which included lead, pesticides, and other chemicals, was removed with the help of three EPA Brownfield Cleanup Grants, paving the way for the site's redevelopment.

### **Transforming Contaminated Land in Dover-Foxcroft, Maine**

NJIT TAB providers assisted town officials in developing a community engagement framework to build community consensus on a redevelopment plan for a contaminated former mill and tannery. They hosted public charrettes with core stakeholders and facilitated agreement on short- and long-term uses and activities for the site. By identifying opportunities to coordinate cleanup with reuse, this technical assistance helped the community reopen the property as a 36-acre park. The park provides access to the Piscataquis River via a canoe and kayak launch and trails for running, walking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

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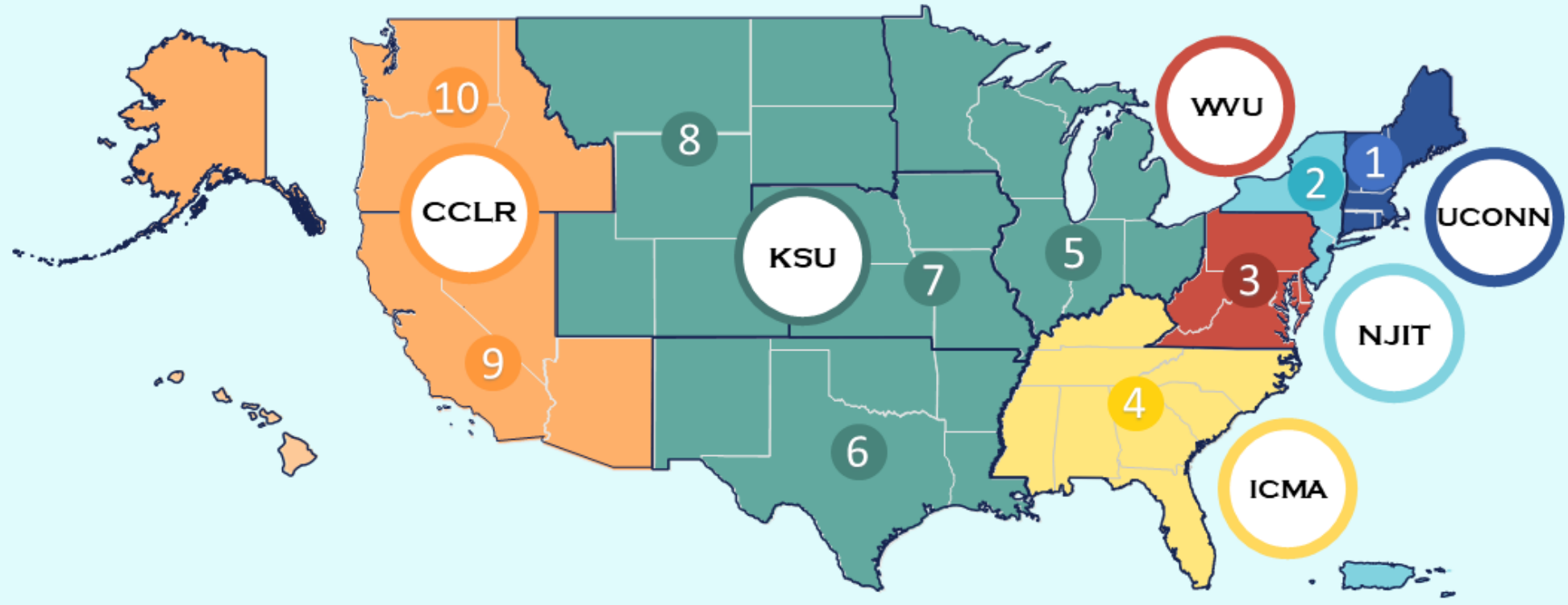
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**Each TAB provider offers a wide range of free technical assistance to help communities redevelop brownfields. For more information, contact the TAB provider in your region.**

## Regional Partners



-  **CCLR** CENTER FOR CREATIVE LAND RECYCLING
-  **KSU** KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
-  **UCONN** UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
-  **ICMA** INTERNATIONAL CITY/COUNTY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION
-  **NJIT** NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
-  **WVU** WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CORPORATION

The numbered circles in the map represent EPA's ten Regional offices, each of which is responsible for the execution of our programs within several states and territories.