



Brownfield Site Assessment Grant

PUB-RR-652

September, 2009

The Brownfield Site Assessment Grant (SAG) is a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) program that helps local governments conduct initial activities and investigations at environmentally contaminated property.

Eligible Applicants and Sites

Any local government – city, village, town, county, redevelopment authority, community development authority, tribe or housing authority – is eligible to complete an application for a grant.

A local government may request funds for more than one property, or may submit a grant application covering multiple, contiguous properties. For each application round, a local government may only receive one grant for a single property, and cannot receive more than 15 percent of the total SAG funds available.

Any application submitted must be for an eligible site or facility, which is defined as “one or more contiguous industrial or commercial facilities or sites with common or multiple ownership that are abandoned, idle, or underused, the expansion or redevelopment of which is adversely affected by actual or perceived environmental contamination” (s. 292.75(1)(a), Wis. Stats.).

The grant must be used for one or more properties that have suspected or known environmental contamination, and the applicant cannot be the party who caused the

contamination. A local government does not have to own the property in order to qualify for this grant, but must have access to the site within 60 days of a grant award to carry out the grant activities.

Eligible Costs

Local governments have 12 months to conduct grant activities after the grant contract is signed. The following activities are eligible for grant funding at an eligible site or facility:

- Phase I and II environmental assessments;
- site investigation;
- demolition of any structures or buildings;
- asbestos abatement, if it’s a necessary part of demolition activity; and
- removal and proper disposal or treatment of abandoned containers, underground hazardous substance storage tank systems, or underground petroleum storage tanks.

Funding

The DNR has funding available each fiscal year for SAG projects – the amount varies depending on state budget figures and incoming state revenue. Grant dollars are allocated to fund small grants (\$2,000-\$30,000) and large grants (\$30,001 to \$100,000).

The applicant must contribute a match of at least 20 percent of the grant request. The match can be provided in the form of cash, in-kind services, or a combination of both.



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Remediation and Redevelopment Program
dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr



Brownfields SAG Success!

- 199 Wisconsin communities received grants totaling \$15 million since 1999.
- Funding has helped communities investigate and clean up 1,562 acres.
- Activities include 777 site assessments and investigations, removal of 496 storage tanks and the demolition of 590 structures and buildings.

The Application

The DNR normally makes applications available in July or August, with deadlines for both small grant and large grant applications in the fall of the year. Awards for SAGs are usually announced in the winter or spring the following year.

You may obtain an application from the DNR's Remediation and Redevelopment Program web site at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/rbrownfields/sag.htm> or by contacting Shelley Fox at 608-266-5798, or shelley.fox@wisconsin.gov.

If there are more requests than available money, the applications will be scored and those with the highest number of points will be awarded grants. Scoring information is available on the application form (Form 4400-217), which is available at the above web address.

Applicants will need to provide information on the proposed site or facility, including its status as a brownfield, known or suspected contamination, and sufficient information to document that the responsible party is

unknown, unable to be located or is unable to pay. The applicant must obtain necessary legal access no later than 60 days after the DNR announces grant awards.

Get Ready, Get Set – Apply!

A local government can prepare for the SAG application by following the checklist below:

- locate eligible sites or facilities;
- determine what activities need to be performed;
- obtain cost estimates for activities from a qualified professional;
- get access and/or ownership;
- collect information on the history of the site, occupants and cause of contamination;
- budget for the match;
- create and approve a municipal resolution in support of the project; and
- prepare an application, and submit by the deadline.



TIPS For Eligibility & Scoring

For eligibility, the property must:

- ✓ be one or more contiguous sites – i.e. *sites may have multiple ownership*;
- ✓ have been used for industry or commerce – *e.g. is not a residential or school property with no commercial history*;
- ✓ be abandoned, idle, or underused – *if the property is still in use, the applicant must show that it is more suitable for other uses and provide evidence that the occupant did not cause the contamination*;
- ✓ have actual or potential environmental contamination – *if contamination is not confirmed, prior property uses must be linked to the potential for contamination*; and

- ✓ expansion or redevelopment of the site is adversely affected by contamination or potential contamination.

to locate the assets of all potential causers.

The person or company who caused the contamination or potential contamination must be:

- ✓ unknown – *but there is known or potential soil or groundwater contamination that hinders redevelopment;*
- ✓ unable to be located – *applicant describes efforts to locate all potential causers;* or
- ✓ financially unable to pay for the grant activities – *and applicant shows efforts*

In addition, the applicant:

- ✓ has not caused the contamination;
- ✓ will provide at least a 20 percent match in funds or services;
- ✓ will obtain legal access to the property within 60 days; and
- ✓ has or will have an appropriate municipal resolution authorizing a SAG application.

Scoring – If scoring is required, department staff score applications for both small (up to \$30,000) and large (\$30,001 to \$100,000) SAG applications by the same criteria.

Brownfield Property	Points
Ownership:	
Applicant owns the site; or	20
Applicant has initiated formal acquisition	10
Tax delinquent now, or when property was acquired by the local government	5
Property is vacant or abandoned	10
There is a school, park, or residence within 500 feet	15
Property is located in a source water protection area or is within 600 feet of a private water supply well	15
Property will used by the public and owned by a local government or non- profit organization	5
There is a hazard or contamination accessible to the public, or that would be if the applicant had not limited access	15
Grant eligible past expenses (5 points for 1 st \$2000 + 1 point for each \$3,000 in additional past costs)	15 maximum
Excess match, above required 20% (1 point for each excess 4%)	20 maximum
Bonus points – Applicant may use bonus points once for each large and small grant	29
Maximum available points	149

This document contains information about certain state statutes and administrative rules but does not necessarily include all of the details found in the statutes and rules. Readers should consult the actual language of the statutes and rules to answer specific questions.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

This publication is available in alternative format upon request. Please call 608-267-3543 for more information.

