



Notes from the Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community (PLC) –7/27/2022

Return this email with subject “Remove” if you are no longer interested in receiving PLC notes and announcements. You can also respond with comments, questions or adding an associate’s name to the PLC list by replying to this email.

*Ideas presented during these sessions represent individual opinions. They do not represent EPA, state, local or organizational policy. Information presented should not be taken as such.*

**Post Session Notes**  
**Session 278, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**CONTENTS**

1. **Registration and Special events at Brownfields 2022**
2. **HMTRI News**
3. **Timeline for the FY23 BJT training cycle**
4. **Farewell to the EPA Job Training Request for Applications – What’s next?**
5. **Educational sessions to consider attending at Brownfields 2022**
6. **Brownfields virtual meetings**
7. **In- person events**
8. **FYI**
9. **Contact EPA Regional Coordinators**
10. **Following summer break, join us for the next PLC August 31<sup>st</sup>**

**1. Registration and Special events at Brownfields 2022**

Section 5 of this week’s PLC notes identifies Brownfields 2022 breakout sessions that may be of interest to conference participants. Those of particular association to BJT programs are highlighted in yellow. Below are general comments and special events.

**Brownfields 2022**  
**August 16-19, 2022**  
**Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**  
**Cosponsored by the EPA and ICMA**

Brownfields 2022 is the premier event to meet potential employers and learn how to access grants and maximize your community’s economic, environmental, and social performance.

[Register for the Conference Here](#)

**NEW GRANTEES consult with your EPA Project Officer about options for attending**

HMTRI is not holding a preconference event this year and is unable to reimburse expenses associated with Brownfields 2022.

However, if you were awarded an EPA brownfields grant this year and do not have access to the funding yet, consult with your EPA Project Officer about options for attending Brownfields 2022.

Weren't able to make it to the Brownfields 2022 First-Time Attendee webinar?

[Click here to view the recording.](#)

-----

## **2022 Environmental Justice Caucus**

**Monday, August 15, 2022, 5:00 – 6:30pm**

An important component of the National Brownfields Training Conference is the Environmental Justice Caucus. The Caucus is a locally driven event where people and organizations involved in Environmental Justice convene, share ideas, build relationships, and communicate directly with the EPA.

**The EJ Caucus is a pre-conference event.**

*The Caucus is open to anyone, and participants do not have to be registered for the conference*

<https://brownfields2022.org/environmental-justice-caucus/>

---

### **Opening Plenary Session:**

**EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan**

**Join EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan for the Opening Plenary on**

**Tuesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>**

**4:30 PM.**

Michael S. Regan was sworn in as the 16th Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency on March 11, 2021, becoming the first Black man and second person of color to lead the U.S. EPA. Prior to his nomination as EPA Administrator, Michael Regan served as the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

---

### **OKC Streetcar:**

**Free for Brownfields 2022 Attendees**

We are excited to provide Brownfields 2022 attendees with complimentary OKC streetcar rides.

**Just show your badge and hop on!**

[Click here to see the OKC streetcar route.](#)

---

### **Brownfields 2022 Community Reception at The Jones Assembly**

**Thursday, August 18th,**

**5:00 PM – 7:00 PM**

What better way to end a day of professional development and learning than an evening with hundreds of your closest brownfields friends? Join attendees of Brownfields 2022 as OKC Mayor David Holt welcomes everyone for a night of networking, live music, and refreshments at The Jones Assembly.

The venue is itself a lesson in brownfield redevelopment savvy. What is now a vibrant entertainment and cultural asset was once a Model T assembly plant and mannequin factory!



Get Your Ticket Now

---

### Updated health and Safety Covid protocols for Brownfields 2022

Brownfields 2022 attendees should make sure to review the updated health and safety guidelines. We have been holding events here without any issues that we are aware of. We disinfect on a regular basis. Additionally, the OKC Convention Center has the Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization (NPBI) technology that delivers purified indoor air. This is proven technology to fight pathogens with high concentration of positive and negative ions, delivering them to the space via the HVAC system. Within the air stream, ions attach to particles, where they combine, become larger and are more easily filtered from the air. When ions come in contact with pathogens, they disrupt the pathogens' surface proteins, rendering them inactive.

Click here for more information:

[brownfields2022.org/health-and-safety](https://brownfields2022.org/health-and-safety)

---

## 2. HMTRI News

### HMTRI Grant Recipient Directory and Employee Finder

HMTRI continues the process of updating the Brownfields Job Training (BJT) Grant Recipient Directory. The objective of the *Grant Recipient Directory* is to collect, assimilate and distribute accomplishments of BJT grantees in a way that their story can reach program supporters. In coming months, information from the *Grant Recipient Directory* will be used to generate special reports that will promote grantee awareness.

The first spinoff of the Grant Recipient Directory is a publication titled the *Certified Employee Finder*. This database will provide contact information and key certifications offered from each of the active BJT programs. The *Certified Employee* finder will be distributed among employers at Brownfields 2022 and can be located on [brownfield-toolbox.org](https://brownfield-toolbox.org) beginning August 12<sup>th</sup>.

---

### The 2022 Annual All Grantee Meeting has been recast as a virtual workshop October 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>

In consideration of multiple factors, HMTRI is recasting the All-Grantee Meeting originally planned as a face-to-face event in Alexandria, VA October 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, to a 2-day virtual workshop.

Recent developments including proximity to Brownfields2022, grantee budget constraints and hotel accommodations suggest that postponing an in-person event to early 2nd quarter 2023 (after FY23 awards have been announced) makes more sense.

During the next two months, we will be asking for agenda and content ideas including virtual tours and presentations. We hope you will earmark October 12th and 13th as dates when grantees, prospective grantees and EPA staff can once again get together virtually sharing experiences and exchanging ideas.

---

### **Sing up to work the BJT booth at Brownfields 2022**

HMTRI will have a booth at Brownfields 2022. The display provides BJT grantees an opportunity to showcase their program, and network with potential stakeholders passing through the exhibit area. If you are interested in earmarking a time to work the booth, stop by the exhibit Tuesday morning to reserve a timeslot. **Be sure to bring program information, business cards and bling to display and pass out.**

---

### **PLC takes a summer break**

With Brownfields 2022 occupying the week of August 15<sup>th</sup>, The Professional Learning Community (PLC) will be taking a summer break. The 4<sup>th</sup> session of this cycle's PLC will restart August 31<sup>st</sup>. Sessions will then continue every other Wednesday thru December 7<sup>th</sup> (same time, place, and login) with a break for the virtual All Grantee Meeting on October 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

---

### **3. Timeline for the FY23 BJT training cycle**

The FY23 grant cycle timeline for each grantee will depend on the actual award date and when applicants are authorized to spend funds. For this year's grant cycle, the first four years will focus on program development, training delivery and placement. A final year (5) has been added for additional training, placement, tracking and program sustainability. Milestones for the FY23 BJT cycle might look like the schedule below.

#### **Spring / Summer 2022**

- Requests for Applications (RFAs). - issued June 1, 2022.
- Applicants had 60 days to write and submit applications. New grantees should begin planning their program six months earlier.
- Proposals submitted via grants.gov. - August 2, 2022.

#### **Fall / Winter 2022**

- Applications not passing threshold criteria are notified within 15 days of grant closure. - August 22, 2022.
- Evaluation criteria reviews continue. - Fall and Winter 2022.
- *Plan on attending the HMTRI virtual networking workshop on to network with EPA Regional Coordinators, grant recipients, and stakeholders interested in starting BJT programs. - October 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.*
- Pending final review, approximately 25 programs will be recommended for FY23 funding consideration. - Before April 2023.

#### **Spring and Summer 2023**

- *Look forward to attending HMTRI's in-person All Grantee Meeting in Alexandria VA. - April 2023.*
- Grant packages are sent to successful applicants.
- Award letters and acceptance by applicants completed.
- Work plans and grant administration is completed prior to final award.
- Funds available for training are released before September 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

#### **2023- 2028**

- Training cohorts continue with program refinements, partnership development and placement improvements based on experience.
- Training and placement progress with ACRES reporting quarterly.
- Consideration regarding program expansion, improvement and sustainability continue.
- Placement, funding development and program continuation is considered as the completion date of the grant approaches.
- Final placement, tracking, program continuation plans, and grant wrap up – through 2028.

---

### **4. Farewell to the EPA Job Training Request for Applications-what's next?**

*It's not over once your proposal has been submitted*

The “crunch” is over. The application submission to grants.gov has been successful. What’s next? The tendency is to collect working files, put them in a folder labeled FY23 Environmental BJT proposal, file the folder in a safe place and go back to the next priority from before the RFA was issued.

Unfortunately, work is not over once an application has been submitted. HMTRI refers to the period between proposal submission and award announcement “the long wait”. Before the end of August, applicants will be notified if their proposal **did not** pass the qualifying criteria. If proposals are not rejected, all is well, and the “long wait” begins. It will be the first quarter of 2023 before applications recommended for funding are announced (HMTRI will post those as they are released). During that time, a lot can happen including staff changes, organizational restructuring and external events that significantly alter the nature of the proposed program. For these reasons, program managers need to follow the progress of their application and changes in local conditions that may impact the grant. For active programs, it may be business as usual, but for new programs, there are issues that need attention. Here are a few of the activities that continue even after applications have been submitted.

- Post submission housekeeping
- Tracking external developments
- Keeping partners engaged
- Maintaining employer relationships
- Continue dialog with program advisors
- Consultant and contractor follow up
- Looking forward if the application is rejected

### **Post submission housekeeping**

As previously discussed, during the time from submission and funding approval, a lot can happen. Regional Coordinators have expressed concern when program managers leave which result in reassignment of key program staff without EPA notification. Perhaps the most significant instance occurred when the primary contact left the BJT applicant. EPA was unable to contact the applicant or replacement staff who was unaware of the application. A lesson learned is to keep an eye on those identified in the grant application. If personnel changes occur, brief their replacements and EPA Regional Coordinators. The same lesson is applicable for primary partners as we will discuss later. Meticulous housekeeping and record keeping is the best strategy to insure smooth transitions of staff. File sharing systems with notations and contact information make picking up another employee’s work easier.

- Organize and/or reorganize data files used to develop the submitted proposal. They should be well labeled and intuitive. Questions may arise with award announcements months away and work plan finalization even later.
- As part of exit interviews, insist that an interim or replacement project manager has an opportunity to review work in progress, key partners, and stakeholders including a copy of the BJT application with supporting files.
- Maintain communication relationships with others who will have a working knowledge of the application, budget, and proposed work plan.

### **Monitor external developments**

External events can have a profound impact on the direction of environmental BJT programs often before the final work plan is approved. Unforeseen events occurring after the application was submitted need to be approved as part of a revised budget and work plan.

- Often development projects are delayed or canceled, critically changing the demand or timing for hiring program graduates.
- The demand for workers with specific certifications and skill sets change over time requiring curriculum changes based on local labor market demands.
- Community organizations and nonprofits are dynamic in nature sometimes placing the ability to provide leveraged support in doubt.
- Labor market assessments and potential employers need to be revisited on a regular basis.
- Staffing changes among key partners requires regular updating and a confirmation of continued support.

### **Keeping partners engaged**

Key partners and stakeholders need to be updated as the application review process progresses. It’s a professional courtesy.

- Continue Engagement with the Mayor’s office informing administrative and staff assistants of schedules and timelines. Networking should continue with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the

Workforce Investment Board and other local governmental agencies identified as potential leveraging partners.

- Brief elected representatives on your progress in developing an environmental BJT program – It is important that they stay informed of the progress of your application. Additionally, they may open opportunities for additional leveraged resources.
- Continue discussions with local faith based and nonprofit organizations – These are the organizations that will provide “in kind” support and program awareness as the program begins.
- Locate and contact active brownfields. It is important that coordination continues between the Multipurpose, Assessment and Cleanup Grantees (MAC). The objective of these relationships has more to do with employment opportunities than anything else.
- Continue participating in public meetings. The objective of these meetings is to inform the community and answer questions on the progress of the BJT application. Participation in public events will create environmental BJT awareness and greatly benefit recruitment efforts as the program is implemented.
- Continue seeking out special programs and community development plans that may not have been noted as “Other Factors” in the grant application. Sometimes special programs and community development programs are expanded or may be delayed due to unintended developments.
- Continue seeking support from leveraged partners, potential employers, advisory committee members and community supporters. It is important that they stay committed to the program.
- Keep those included and referenced in the RFA informed. They may be contacted by proposal reviewers for additional information.
- Inform partners and stakeholders of the schedule moving forward. In the event a proposal is not funded, build upon established partnerships and contacts for an expanded proposal next summer.
- We suggest distributing the proposal to key supporters and partners. Their involvement may attract additional leveraged support.

*As a guide, assume that any partner, employer, or organization discussed in the proposal will be contacted by proposal evaluators for confirmation of proposed commitments.*

#### **Maintaining employer relationships**

- Outreach to employers contacted during the labor market assessment during application development. It is critical that communications continue with potential employers especially those that may have been identified in the proposal.
- Continuing a dialog with potential employers will assist in identifying external developments that may require revisions to the original work plan.

#### **Continue dialog with program advisors**

Hopefully advisory committees are already established and written into the application. If not, the time before funding approval becomes an opportunity to recruit a strong team of advisors. Advisory Boards should include individuals influencing all aspects of the BJT program including the following.

- Representatives from contributing governmental agencies
- Representatives from target community organizations (nonprofit and faith based)
- Community residents and influencers
- Potential employers
- Leveraging partners
- Social service providers
- Training providers
- Workforce Investment Board

If an advisory committee is in place, members should be kept up to date on the progress of the grant application. If a committee has not been formed, it is wise to establish one regardless of the application status. The reason for consulting with advisors before the grant is awarded has to do with events that may have occurred that could influence the project work plan. Advisors may also provide insight regarding inquiries made by key partners and stakeholder supporters during the evaluation process. Advisors are an excellent resource for recruiting additional leveraged supporters and contributors.

#### **Consultant and contractor follow up**

As with advisory committees, the period between grant submission and award is a good time to qualify contractors and consultants.

- Development of vendor Requests for Proposals evaluation, and selection can be time consuming in some organizations.
- Many governmental organizations and larger nonprofits have internal rules and procedures that must be followed to quality contractors and consultants.
- When trainer/contractor selection is conditional on receiving funding and program scheduling, qualifying potential trainers early can save time when funds are released. For those applicants who already have qualified contractors and consultants, it is a professional courtesy to keep them informed on the progress of the grant.

**A note to those who may be discouraged if they do not meet threshold criteria**

In previous PLC sessions we encouraged potential applicants to submit proposals even when they felt uncertain of their success. Some applicants participating in this year’s funding cycle have been funded in the past, some have a deep understanding of their community, partners, and stakeholders. Other applicants have been working on their proposal for many months. Evaluators go to great lengths to evaluate applications on a level playing field. Attempts are made to award grants based on the quality of the application and an understanding of program goals with consideration to new and challenged communities.

- It is important not to be discouraged if this year’s proposal is not accepted. Many applicants consider their first submission as a learning experience.
- Unfunded applications are provided an opportunity for a critical review identifying deficiencies and possible ways to improve the proposed program. With additional guidance from EPA, HMTRI and peer to peer networking, applications can be revised and expanded for the next competition less than nine months away.
- It takes a good part of the year to assemble, coordinate and institute a working partnership team. Consider this a marathon rather than a “one off” funding opportunity.
- Unfunded proposals can provide a launching pad for improved and successful programs during subsequent cycles.
- In the event EPA funding does not come this cycle, planning should continue. Local funding may allow for pilot or demonstration programs to begin without Federal support. Environmental job training programs are often surprised by the amount of external support available from non-EPA sources.
- Participate in the HMTRI All Grantee Meeting, networking sessions, and PLCs every other Wednesday. Moving forward the PLC will showcase many of EPA’s outstanding environmental job training programs.
- Continue a dialog with your EPA Regional Coordinator. Applicants have been rejected in the past, resolved issues, improved their program plan, and received funding in the next cycle.
- Continue relationships with your advisory board, partners, and potential employers.
- During preparation for the RFA, supplemental sources of startup funding may have been identified to begin planning an environmental workforce program before receiving EPA assistance. Consider seeking supplemental funding from governmental agencies, community colleges and existing nonprofit organizations interested in expanding their offerings to include environmental training.

-----

**5. Educational sessions to consider attending at Brownfields 2022**

Below are Brownfields 2022 breakout sessions that may be of interest to conference participants. Those of particular association to BJT programs are highlighted in yellow.

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2022**

**Revitalization  
Sustainability, Livability, Resiliency  
8:30 AM to 11:00 AM  
Room 208 A/B**

SPEAKERS:

**Claire Weston, Noemi Emeric-Ford, Schenine Mitchell,** Sean Vroom, Maggie Belanger, Ted Lanzano  
Consider this your Brownfields 2022 Basecamp! This course introduces the multiple dimensions of brownfield revitalization, including a hands-on activity where participants will work in small groups to develop a brownfield plan for ‘their community.’ Experienced brownfield professionals from U.S. EPA Regional Offices and EPA’s Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Communities program will walk participants through brownfields basics, show you



how to gear up for brownfields successes in your community (including funding opportunities in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law), and provide recommendations on which sessions to attend at Brownfields 2022 based on where you are in the redevelopment process. This course also provides ample opportunities for networking, peer-to-peer learning, and resource exchange. Join us and jumpstart your 2022 Brownfields Conference experience!

-----

### **Innovative Community Engagement Approaches & Cultural Competencies**

Community Engagement and Environmental Justice

**12:00 PM to 2:15 PM**

**Room 204**

SPEAKERS:

Maggie Belanger, Carrie Staton

This course covers the Who, what, why, and when of community engagement for public agencies, development interests, and anyone involved in brownfields. Concepts will be illustrated by real world examples, and offer perspectives from impacted community members, organizations, public agencies, developers, community-based organizations. It looks beyond the standard approaches and considers social distancing, tactical urbanism, and other emerging ways to engage people.

-----

### **USEPA Regional meet and greet gatherings**

#### **Region 1**

2:30 PM – 4:00 PM, Omni OK Station 3

Convene all Region 1 conference attendees to discuss the current status and highlight the regional successes. This will be an informal networking event for regional attendees.

#### **Region 2**

2:30 PM – 4:00 PM, Omni Bricktown Room

The purpose of the meeting is to have a ceremony event with Region 2 EPA employee and grantees to highlight some of the Brownfields Program successful projects.

#### **Region 3**

2:30 PM – 4:00 PM, Omni OK Station 1

Grantees, state agencies and interested parties will participate in the Open House.

#### **Region 4**

2:30 PM – 4:00 PM, Omni Pinon Room

The Open House will provide the opportunity for attendees from the eight states and six tribal communities located in EPA Region 4 to meet EPA management and staff, State and Tribal partners, and other regional stakeholders. The Open House will also highlight grantee accomplishments from around the region.

#### **Region 5**

2:30 PM – 4:00 PM, Omni OK Station 2

The Open House serves as an opportunity for attendees located in the Great Lakes Region to meet EPA management and staff, State and Tribal partners, and other regional stakeholders. During the event, Region 5 will acknowledge accomplishments of regional grantees through noteworthy projects.

#### **Region 6**

2:30 PM – 4:00 PM, Omni OK Station 5

Region 6 is planning to recognize staff for outstanding service and new grantees. We will be introducing new personnel and recognizing the outstanding Brownfields Redevelopment activities in Oklahoma City

#### **Region 7**

2:30 PM – 4:00 PM, Omni OK Station 4

EPA Region 7 welcomes guests from Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska and Nine Tribal Nations.

**Region 8**

2:30 PM – 4:00 PM, Omni Mistletoe Room

An open house for EPA Region 8 employees, grantees, and friends. Come meet your counterparts, share your successes and failures, and most of all, have a good time. EPA Region 8 includes the states of Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.

**Region 9**

2:30 PM – 4:00 PM, Omni Route 66 Room

US EPA Region 9 Open House

**Region 10**

2:30 PM – 4:00 PM, Omni Myriad Room

The Open House will provide the opportunity for attendees from the 4 States and 271 Tribes located in EPA Region 10 to meet EPA management and staff as well as each other. We will also highlight some noteworthy brownfield projects throughout the region.

---

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2022**

**ACRES - Walk-Up Help Desk**

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

ROOM 104

Open office hours to ask ACRES experts for help on all things ACRES.

---

**Brownfields Grants Session - Relevant Regulations for Managing your Grant**

Financing Options, Real Estate, and Economic Development

11:45 AM to 12:45 PM

Room 208 A/B

SPEAKERS:

James Drummond, Rachel Lentz, Jennifer Wilbur

This panel session will offer attendees receiving or seeking EPA Brownfields grants with an opportunity to obtain advice from EPA experts on minimizing risks of questioned costs in audits and subsequent action by EPA to recover funds or terminate grants. One major focus of the session will be changes to the 2 CFR Part 200 Uniform Grant Guidance recently promulgated by the Office of Management and Budget that will impact Brownfields grantees. Other topics include the unique administrative cost and consultant fee limitations on Brownfields grants, and the Build America, Buy America Act (BABA) requirements in section 70914 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Public Law 117-58). The session will be interactive with ample opportunity for attendees to ask the panelists detailed questions.

---

**Opportunity in Obstacles: Environmental Justice, Brownfields and Affordable Housing**

Community Engagement and Environmental Justice

11:45 AM to 12:45 PM

Room 209 A/B

SPEAKERS:

Blase Leven, Tom Currell, Kate Lucas

Too often, brownfield sites are often located in underserved, lower income neighborhoods, with a need for affordable housing and services. In this session, developers, technical assistance providers and community advocates will share successful approaches for transforming sites with environmental and real estate obstacles into community assets. We'll share lessons learned, creative approaches to jump-starting development, and what resources are available to communities through EPA's Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) program. Working together, public and private sector stakeholders can help communities build healthier, more inclusive communities through brownfield revitalization.

---

**Meet Them Where They Live: Innovative Engagement Techniques & Success Stories That Empower Your Community**

Community Engagement and Environmental Justice

11:45 AM to 12:45 PM

Room 301 C/D

SPEAKERS:

Drew Wilson, Dave Laney, Ryan Givens, Aaron Egbert

Effective community outreach and engagement requires deliberate and careful planning to target messaging to intended audiences, use of relevant and visually stimulating information, and media most likely to be seen by community members and stakeholders. Includes examples from different cities and county grantees of on-line and in-person public meetings tailored to appeal to government, private and nonprofit participants. It discusses ways to more easily reach disadvantaged and marginalized communities using equitable engagement. It compares Zoom, Teams and WebEx, how to develop and strategically time press releases for maximum effectiveness, best practices for use of fact sheets, and how Brownfield Advisory Committees create "ambassadors of good will and information." It shows how videotaped presentations with testimonials from elected officials and property owners can be compelling.

-----

**ACRES - Job Training Grantee Focus Session**

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

ROOM 104

This session is designed to be an open question and answer for job training grantees. Team ACRES will highlight the basics of the required reporting forms in ACRES but leave much of the session time to answer questions from users.

-----

**From Engagement to Inclusion - the Shift We Need to Make**

Community Engagement and Environmental Justice

2:40 PM to 2:55 PM

Room 302 A

SPEAKERS:

James Becker

As COVID-19 and the actions of racial injustice have impacted our communities, they have highlighted the inequities that exist, and have empowered communities to lead in new ways. Community involvement is no longer appropriate, we must work to fully include community in our work.

-----

**Special Session with Carlton Waterhouse, EPA Deputy Assistant Administrator**

3:15 PM to 4:15 PM

Room 301 C/D

Carlton Waterhouse

Carlton Waterhouse is EPA's Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM). In this role, Mr. Waterhouse oversees EPA's Superfund, RCRA, and Brownfields Programs. During this session, Mr. Waterhouse will speak to his priorities related to these programs and how the programs plan to use increased funding from the Investing in Infrastructure and Jobs Act to accelerate the cleanup of contaminated lands and address the Administration's Justice40 priorities.

-----

**Nonprofit Know-How: Seizing the Reins of Revitalization**

Community Engagement and Environmental Justice

3:15 PM to 4:15 PM

Room 201

**SPEAKERS:**

Aimee Storm, Rachel Jefferson

Community Engagement and Environmental Justice

Nonprofit organizations are often key partners in successful brownfields redevelopment projects. Since the 2018 BUILD Act expanded grant eligibilities for 501(c)(3) organizations, EPA is seeing increased nonprofit interest in brownfields grants. Join us for a discussion about how to strengthen nonprofit interest in, and increase nonprofit capacity to, lead brownfields redevelopment projects. What are the unique benefits and barriers nonprofits encounter when they lead brownfields redevelopment projects? What are some strategies to help nonprofits deal with brownfield issues as part of their neighborhood revitalization efforts?

-----

**ACRES: Major 2022 Updates**

3:15 PM- 4: 15 PM

ROOM 104

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) of 2021 awarded the Brownfields Program an additional \$1.5 billion in funding. The large influx of funding will allow the Program to enhance the ACRES database with new tracking and reporting capabilities. Specifically, the database will now track the Program's technical assistance activities and include mechanisms to track progress on Justice40 and climate change initiatives. Come hear about these changes and more!

-----

**Open House – US EPA Superfund Redevelopment Program**

4:30 PM- 5: 30 PM

Room 202

Informal Meet & Greet for attendees to mingle with EPA staff and ask questions

-----

**Justice40 Stakeholder Engagement Meeting**

NIEHS Environmental Career Worker Training Program (ECWTP)

5:00 PM- 7:00 PM

Room 204

**5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Focus on ECWTP Grantees and Justice40 Benefits and Tools**

**6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Focus on Stakeholder Discussions and Engagement**

- Share information about the NIEHS Worker Training Program's Environmental Career Worker Training Program (ECWTP) and their experiences as a Justice40 pilot.
  - Gain input from stakeholders regarding the program.
- 

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 2022**

**ACRES -Walk-Up Help Desk**

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

ROOM 104

Open office hours to ask ACRES experts for help on all things ACRES

-----

**Learners to Leaders: Environmental Justice Literacy Curriculum for Youths and Adults**

Community Engagement and Environmental Justice

11:10 AM to 11:25 AM

Room 302 B

**SPEAKERS:**

Jalisa Gilmore

Environmental justice laws are rooted in grassroots, community-based civil and indigenous rights movements. Through engagement with the graphic novel *Mayah's Lot*, audiovisual resources, and a series of interactive activities, the Learners to Leaders curriculum—developed by youth and practitioners working in environmental justice communities around the country—highlights these movements and exposes learners to a wide breadth of emerging resources and tools. Participants build a timeline not only of environmental injustices, but of the movements and campaigns that have led to an established framework of environmental justice law in America. The curriculum allows learners to connect the historical timeline with current events and encourages them to identify issues affecting their own neighborhoods so that they can work together to transform and revitalize neglected spaces.

-----  
**Women in Brownfields**

**Community Engagement and Environmental Justice**

**11:45 AM to 12:45 PM**

**Room 203**

**SPEAKERS:**

**Sue Boyle, Ann Carroll**

As brownfield practitioners, women initiate and lead projects and provide technical assistance to communities tackling environmental, public health and economic challenges as they intersect with social issues. In doing this, brownfield practitioners created new markets in contaminated lands. As we help communities create a new vision and restore neglected areas, women play many critical roles as communicators, collaborators, champions for sustainable practices and reinvigorated areas that more practically reflect community needs. This roundtable celebrates our accomplishments as brownfield practitioners across a range of disciplines, touches on the challenges we faced and experiences that got us here today. Discussions will consider women as champions of sustainability, resilience, and a fair economic future. Join us as we forge a future with opportunities for more representative and equitable leadership in brownfield practice, policy, revitalization projects and technical innovations.

-----  
**ACRES -Job Training Grantee Focus Session**

**2:00 PM – 3:00 PM**

**ROOM 104**

This session is designed to be an open question and answer for job training grantees. Team ACRES will highlight the basics of the required reporting forms in ACRES but leave much of the session time to answer questions from users.

-----  
**They Work Hard for the Money! Keys to EWDJT Program Placement Success**

**Real Estate, and Economic Development**

**3:15 PM to 4:15 PM**

**Room 203**

**SPEAKERS:**

**Schenine Mitchell, Paul McFadden, Angela Iocolano**

Since many environmental jobs are embedded in traditional occupations and a variety of economic activities, Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) jobs extend beyond careers with environmental titles. Program graduates fill jobs that value or require the certifications, skill and knowledge attributes acquired as part of the EWDJT program. It is essential to provide tools and resources necessary for graduates to transition to good new jobs, to diversify local and regional economies and to create and sustain quality economic opportunities. If done right, job training programs provide investment in workforce training, and assistance for communities impacted by brownfields and other environmental issue. In this session, learn how two of EPA's EWDJT grantees provide their graduates with environmental careers and their positive impact on communities.

-----  
**ACRES -What's New with ACRES: Major 2022 Updates**

**3:15 PM- 4: 15 PM**

**ROOM 104**

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) of 2021 awarded the Brownfields Program an additional \$1.5 billion in funding. The large influx of funding will allow the Program to enhance the ACRES database with new tracking and

reporting capabilities. Specifically, the database will now track the Program's technical assistance activities and include mechanisms to track progress on Justice40 and climate change initiatives. Come hear about these changes and more!

-----  
**FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 2022**

**Gaming It Out – Using Creative Engagement Techniques for Better Community Input and Buy-In**

Community Engagement and Environmental Justice

9:00 AM to 10:00 AM

Room 202

Carrie Staton

Successful projects must capture the input and buy-in of stakeholders, but traditional engagement approaches can be alienating to underserved populations. To solicit the best input, project leaders must find creative ways to attract active community participation in brief but efficient settings. Using creativity, fun, and splash of whimsy, Gamestorming engages stakeholders on complex and even controversial topics. Through a series of activities, participants explore new options and methods for redevelopment projects. Municipal and economic development agencies can use this approach to help build broader public participation. In this workshop, participants will learn the underlying principles of Gamestorming, tools for implementing this strategy, and a series of commonly used activities. Facilitators will demonstrate activities that offer the opportunity to learn from the facilitators and participants alike.

-----  
**6. Brownfields virtual meetings**

**Virtual Public Outreach Session on EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management's Environmental Justice (EJ) Action Plan**

**August 3rd from 6-8pm EDT**

Join EPA's Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization (OBLR) to learn about and provide feedback on the Program's Technical Assistance outreach on Wednesday, August 3rd from 6-8pm EDT.

EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM) is hosting a series of virtual environmental justice (EJ) community engagement sessions to gather stakeholder input on OLEM's draft [EJ Action Plan](#). Projects from the EJ Action Plan will be presented and discussed by agency staff, tribal and community-based speakers and public participants. Each presentation includes a live, open public feedback session. The sessions will be hosted on Zoom and provide live Spanish translation. More details on the series are available [here](#).

OBLR's presentation during the engagement session on August 3rd will include an overview of the [Technical Assistance to Brownfields \(TAB\) Program](#), staff from TAB recipient [in Common Community Development](#) will share their experience receiving assistance on their brownfields and equity projects, and open feedback/Q&A with EPA staff and [Kansas State University TAB Provider](#).

**Register for the August 3rd call featuring Brownfields Technical Assistance**

Go to [This webpage](#).

-----

## National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Calls



The purpose of these calls is to inform communities about EPA's environmental justice work and enhance opportunities to maintain an open dialogue with environmental justice advocates. As environmental justice continues to be integrated into EPA programs and policies, the Agency hopes that these calls will help reaffirm EPA's continued commitment to work with community groups and the public to strengthen local environmental and human health outcomes.

**August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (2 - 4 pm Eastern)**

**2 - 4 p.m. Eastern**

**EPA environmental justice initiatives**

**Listening Session and Dialogue: Q&A about ongoing EJ initiatives**

For more information and registration, go to:

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-community-engagement-calls>

-----

**Nonprofit Know-How: Seizing the Reins of Revitalization**

**August 17, 2022 at the National Brownfields Training Conference**

Nonprofit organizations are often key partners in successful brownfields redevelopment projects. Since the 2018 BUILD Act expanded grant eligibilities for 501(c)(3) organizations, EPA is seeing increased nonprofit interest in brownfields grants. Join us for a discussion about how to strengthen nonprofit interest in, and increase nonprofit capacity to, lead brownfields redevelopment projects. What are the unique benefits and barriers nonprofits encounter when they lead brownfields redevelopment projects? What are some strategies to help nonprofits deal with brownfield issues as part of their neighborhood revitalization efforts?

For more information- Go to:

[Nonprofit Know-How: Seizing the Reins of Revitalization roundtable session](#)

-----

**In Case You Missed It**

**Nonprofit Know-How: Transforming Large, Rural Brownfields**

A [recording is now available](#) for the first webinar of this series,

Featuring:

Chris Campbell, Kentucky Steam Heritage Corporation, and Steve Sanders, Our Katahdin, ME

-----

## 7. In-person events

**2022 National Brownfields Training Conference**

**Oklahoma City, OK**

**August 16-19, 2022**

The National Brownfields Training Conference is the largest event in the nation focused on environmental revitalization and economic redevelopment. Held every two years, the National Brownfields Conference attracts over 2,000 stakeholders in brownfields redevelopment and cleanup to share knowledge about sustainable reuse and

celebrate the EPA brownfields program's success. Whether you're a newcomer or a seasoned professional, Brownfields 2021 offers something for you! Registration is now open.

For more information, please visit

<https://brownfields2022.org/>

-----





The 27th Annual Florida Remediation Conference (FRC 2022)  
Omni Orlando Resort at Champions Gate  
Orlando, Florida  
November 16-18, 2022

The Florida Remediation Conference (FRC) is one of the premier soil, air and water remediation conferences of the year. Though FRC started out as a Florida-centric event 26 years ago, it has developed a solid reputation for fostering the remediation and redevelopment industries across the Southeast. FRC attracts over 600 attendees comprised of a mix of industry representatives, developers, consultants, and contractors, and over 100 exhibitors and sponsors from across the country.

For more information, go to:

<https://floridaremediationconference.org>

---

## 8. FYI

### Introducing Dream.org

As of today, Dream Corps has become Dream.org - same drive, same spirit, but even bigger ambition. We've always dreamed big here. We knew it was possible to find common ground on criminal justice reform, the climate crisis, and changing the future of the tech industry. And our approach has made dreams real: winning bipartisan criminal justice reform that brought 18,000+ people home from behind bars, placing our tech cohort graduates in jobs with \$70,000 starting salaries, and delivering \$55.5 billion in federal funding for green investments.

**Exhausted by dysfunction and division? Want to make America better, not angrier? Love finding solutions more than pointing fingers? Then [Dream.Org](https://dream.org) is for you.**

Our commitment to low-income, Black and Brown communities, and people who are often left behind and left out of the American Dream will not change. Nor will our desire to build common ground — even with those who disagree with us. In these divided times, collaboration takes courage. Reaching across racial and political lines can be risky and lonely. We need co-conspirators and partners who can collaborate, strategize, and help us scale our proven model to meet the deep need before us. Go To [Dream.org](https://dream.org)

---

## 9. Contact EPA Regional Coordinators

Regional Coordinators are the first place to go regarding questions about BJT grants, extensions, budgets, or work plans. Many Regions maintain a Listserv for past, current, and potential recipients. It is important to be on their contact list for conference calls and newsletters.

EPA Region 1

CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT

William "Bill" Lariviere

Phone: (617) 918-1231

[E-mail: lariviere.william@epa.gov](mailto:lariviere.william@epa.gov)

EPA Region 2

NJ, NY, PR, VI

Schenine Mitchell  
Phone: (212) 637-3283  
E-mail: [mitchell.schenine@epa.gov](mailto:mitchell.schenine@epa.gov)

EPA Region 3  
DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV  
Gianna Rosati  
Phone: (215) 814-3406  
E-mail: [Rosati.Gianna@epa.gov](mailto:Rosati.Gianna@epa.gov)

EPA Region 4  
AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN  
Olga Perry  
Phone: (404) 562-8534  
E-mail: [perry.olga@epa.gov](mailto:perry.olga@epa.gov)

EPA Region 5  
IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI  
Linda Morgan  
Phone: (312) 886-4747  
E-mail: [morgan.linda@epa.gov](mailto:morgan.linda@epa.gov)

EPA Region 6  
AR, LA, NM, OK, TX  
Elizabeth Reyes  
Phone: (214) 665-3163  
E-mail: [reyes.elizabeth@epa.gov](mailto:reyes.elizabeth@epa.gov)

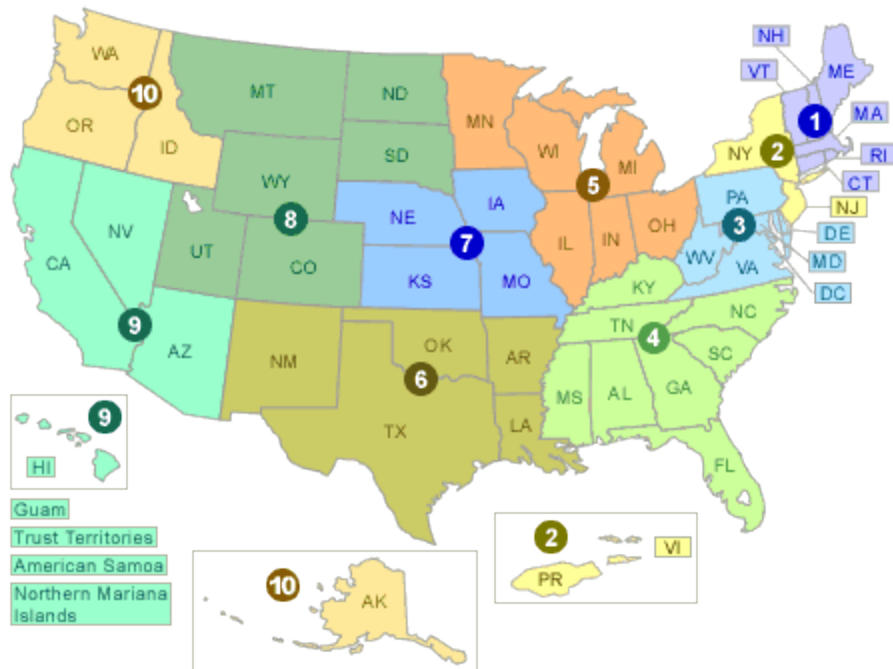
EPA Region 7  
IA, KS, MO, NE  
Alma Moreno Lahm  
Phone: (913) 551-7380  
E-mail: [moreno-lahm.alma@epa.gov](mailto:moreno-lahm.alma@epa.gov)

EPA Region 8  
CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY  
Christina Wilson  
Phone: (303) 312-6706  
E-mail: [wilson.christina@epa.gov](mailto:wilson.christina@epa.gov)

EPA Region 9  
AZ, CA, HI, NV, AS, GU  
Nova Blazej  
Phone: (415) 972-3846  
E-mail: [blazej.nova@epa.gov](mailto:blazej.nova@epa.gov)

Noemi Emeric-Ford  
Phone: (213) 244-1821  
E-mail: [emeric-ford.noemi@epa.gov](mailto:emeric-ford.noemi@epa.gov)

EPA Region 10  
AK, ID, OR, WA  
Angel Ip  
Phone: (206) 553-1673  
E-mail: [ip.angel@epa.gov](mailto:ip.angel@epa.gov)



**10. Following summer break, join us for the next PLC August 31<sup>st</sup>**

Join a conversation with EPA Brownfields Job Training grant recipients, alumni, and interested stakeholders. PLCs are scheduled every other week on Wednesdays, same time, regular PLC Zoom link.

**Next Professional Learning Community call**  
**Wednesday August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2:00 p.m. Eastern**

- 8/15/2022 – 8/19/2022                      Brownfields 2022**  
*The Professional Learning Community takes a summer break*  
 8/31/2022              Session 279  
 9/14/2022              Session 280  
 9/28/2022              Session 281  
**10/12/2022 – 10/13/2022 All Grantee Virtual Workshop**  
 10/26/2022              Session 282  
 11/9/2022              Session 283  
 11/23/2022              Session 284  
 12/7/2022              Session 285

To Join PLC Zoom Meetings, go to:  
<https://zoom.us/j/93598658578>

Meeting ID: 935 9865 8578

On the road - Computer not available.....  
You can phone in using the nearest location  
+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)  
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)  
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 935 9865 8578

The objective of the (PLC) is to promote and share innovative strategies among those interested in establishing community based environmental job training programs. Our sessions allow participants to stay in touch with BJT happenings, ask questions, showcase their programs, and help others. The Environmental Workforce PLC is open to all and there is no cost or obligation to attend. Join us when you can. If you would like to invite a guest, feel free to forward this email.

Showcase your program – Biweekly, the PLC will hear from one of our grantees, discuss opportunities or exchange ideas related to environmental job training. HMTRI is inviting you to participate in the next cycle of Professional Learning Community ZOOMs. If you would like to present at an upcoming PLC contact Mike at:  
[msenew@gmail.com/](mailto:msenew@gmail.com/)

-----  
*PLC notes presented represent individual opinions and ideas from Professional Learning Community participants and JT recipients. They do not represent EPA policy, guidance or opinions and should not be taken as such.*

For more information on HMTRI technical assistance services or to be added to our Grantee and Community Outreach Listserv, please email to:  
[hmtri@eicc.edu](mailto:hmtri@eicc.edu).



*The Brownfields Training PLC is sponsored under Cooperative Agreement with The US Environmental Protection Agency in association with the Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute (HMTRI), and Eastern Iowa Community Colleges District.*