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**NYC Office of Environmental
Remediation**

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New York City Brownfield and Community Revitalization Act Legislation Gains Council Passage

On April 22, 2009 the City Council unanimously approved a Local Law to develop a comprehensive program for the remediation and reuse of brownfields. The passage of the "New York City Brownfield and Community Revitalization Act" is an enormous milestone in the City's commitment to cleaning up brownfields for productive reuse in accordance with [PlaNYC](#). The Mayor is expected to sign the bill into law on May 11.

Brownfields are important to NYC because they represent a significant opportunity to create housing, jobs, and open space to serve our growing population. PlanNYC estimated that the City has 7,600 acres of brownfields, vacant or underutilized sites where redevelopment is impeded by environmental contamination.

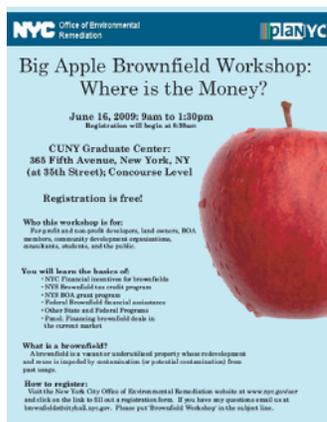
PlaNYC contained eleven initiatives related to brownfields, and the passage of this legislation either completes or enables the achievement of all of them.

The legislation:

- creates the Office of Environmental Remediation (OER) to oversee and coordinate City brownfield policy;
- creates a new Local Brownfield Cleanup Program that is the first in the nation to provide for municipal oversight of brownfield cleanups;
- ensures that the Local Brownfield Cleanup Program will use New York State standards for cleanup of brownfields;
- enables the Office of Environmental Remediation to facilitate community planning for areas affected by clusters of brownfields through the NYS Department of State's Brownfield Opportunity Area grant program;
- authorizes new Clean Property Certification Program - this program is expected to do for Brownfields what LEED does for green buildings, provide a tangible symbol of commitment to proper cleanup;
- authorizes the City to enter into agreements with the State and Federal governments to provide liability protection for program participants;

- provides for limited City liability protection for completed projects;
- authorizes investment of City funds for small grants to stimulate brownfield projects;
- provides priority for environmental justice communities in the grant program and for technical assistance;
- creates a one-stop shop for cleanup at OER, enabling land owners and developers to achieve cleanup that is both thorough and timely; and
- enables OER to pursue state and federal grants to support NYC brownfield projects.

Big Apple Brownfield Workshop 2



“The Big Apple Brownfields Workshop: Where is the Money?” will be held on **June 16, 2009** at CUNY’s Graduate Center. This is the second in the series of workshops to encourage redevelopment of brownfield sites in New York City.

The workshop will provide a series of short presentations by The NYC Office of Environmental Remediation (OER) and industry experts on the financial resources available to assist brownfield projects. OER will also unveil its new Local Brownfield Cleanup Program for NYC brownfield projects.

This workshop is intended for non-for-profit and for-profit developers, landowners, local development organizations, community groups, consultants, students, and the general public.

In addition to the presentations, the workshop will include a panel discussion, question and answer sessions, and a networking lunch with industry experts and businesses, and display presentations highlighting firm services in brownfield redevelopment.

Register for the workshop [here](#)

1st Big Apple Brownfield Awards a Success

On April 13, 2009 the NYC Partnership of Brownfield Practitioners hosted its first annual Brownfields Award Ceremony and recognized New York’s most outstanding brownfield projects in eight categories representing facets of brownfields redevelopment.



“This is a great opportunity to celebrate the people who are achieving important brownfield milestones in our City. Your visionary endeavors, tenacious advocacy, and hard work have led to projects and programs that realize sustainability goals set forth in PlaNYC,” said keynote speaker Edward Skyler, NYC Deputy Mayor for Operations.

[PlaNYC](#), which Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg unveiled on Earth Day 2007, presents a comprehensive blueprint for greening and growing the city and its services. The cleanup and redevelopment of brownfield sites accounts for 11 of the plans’ 127 initiatives.

(NYC Deputy Mayor for Operations Edward Skyler)

Other guest speakers included Val Washington, Deputy Commissioner for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, George Pavlou, Acting Regional 2 Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Daniel Walsh, Director of the NYC Office of Environmental Remediation.

The Partnership presented its first Distinguished Lifetime Service Award to Mathy Stanislaus, recently nominated by President Barack Obama to become Assistant Administrator for the US EPA and head of the agency’s Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response. He has over two decades of experience in the environmental field and is co-founder of New Partners for Community Revitalization, a New York non-profit that works to encourage brownfield redevelopment.



(Mathy Stanislaus accepting the Distinguished Lifetime Service Award)

The event was held at the Museum of the City of New York, where attendees got a chance to view [“Growing and Greening New York: PlaNYC and the Future of the City.”](#) The exhibit showcased the infrastructure and environmental challenges the city faces as it prepares for its population to reach 9 million residents by 2030.



Posters of winning projects were available for viewing. Shown here are posters for Elmhurst Park in Queens and an affordable housing complex.

The event was attended by over 200 people from widely varied backgrounds and was moderated by Gary Rozmus, Chairman of the Board of the NYC Partnership of Brownfield Practitioners. The Partnership also recognized 9 students who received Brownfields Scholarships and the first green job trainees.



(Representatives of the Partnerships founding member organizations with event speakers and the 2009 brownfield scholarships recipients.)

1st Annual Northeast Sustainable Communities Workshop

June 18, 2009
Newark, NJ (New Jersey Institute of Technology)
View the workshop agenda [here](#)



The 1st Annual Northeast Sustainable Communities Workshop will focus on brownfields redevelopment and its intersection with sustainability. The exciting and informative topics will include:

- Multi-stakeholder Initiatives for Sustainable Brownfields Redevelopment
- Brownfields and Climate Change
- Communities as Brownfield Developers
- Regionalism, Smart Growth and Brownfields
- Sustainable Approaches to Assessment and Remediation to Brownfields Sites

- Green Development on Brownfields
- Sustainable Approaches to Restoration of Water Systems
- Using Brownfields to Create Self-Sufficient Neighborhoods
- Public / Private Partnerships for Sustainability

It is intended that the workshop will not simply add 'sustainability' to the list of issues related to Brownfields but will look deeply at the interconnections and confluences that make for creating sustainable communities through Brownfields redevelopment. Brownfields are uniquely suited to be a place for sustainable redevelopment to grow. The program for this workshop is intended to be one day of intensive, high energy exchanges between stakeholders sharing varied perspectives on the issues surrounding Brownfields and sustainability. Stakeholder perspectives that include real estate finance, government at all levels, corporations, community representatives, NGOs and consultants who provide a range of technical expertise will participate in interactive sessions that focus on best practices and the challenges to their implementation. The focus will be on problem-solving.

[Register for the workshop now!](#)

Upcoming Brownfield Events

When	What	Where	Why	More info
6 May	NYSFAFH Conference	Marriott Marquis in Times Square	Panel on affordable housing & brownfields.	Click here for more info
4 June	NBA Tri-State Brownfields Conference	NYC	NY-NJ-CT focus. Economic and real estate forecasts, state regulators, case studies (including Honeywell cleanup in NJ).	Click here to register
16 June	MOER Brownfields 102 Workshop – “Where is the Money?”	CUNY Grad Center, 34th Street & Fifth Avenue	Featuring info on financial resources for investigation, remediation, and redevelopment.	Save the date
18 June	Northeast Sustainable Communities Workshop	NJIT, Newark	NY-NJ-CT-PA conference focusing on sustainability and brownfields. Dan Walsh speaking about NYC program.	Click here for more info
16-18 Nov	National Brownfields Conference	Morial Convention Center, New Orleans	Registration is open; suggestions for presentations accepted until May 1 st .	Click here to register