

Improve Your Community's Health through Land Reuse and Redevelopment

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) National Brownfields/Land Reuse Health Initiative

What we do

At ATSDR we help people understand what a brownfield/land reuse site is and how it can affect the health of their community. We provide guidance and tools communities can use to improve public health when redeveloping these sites. Our main goals are to:

- Encourage communities to include and promote community health in brownfield and land reuse projects.
- Protect community members' health when redeveloping brownfields and land reuse sites.

Brownfield/land reuse sites are old industrial, residential, or abandoned properties where harmful substances might have been (or have been) left behind.



How we do it

The ATSDR team is your partner when working with your community to improve health. We have:

- Free tools and training that can be customized to your community's needs.
- Examples of successful community projects—what people like you have done and how they did it.
- Specialists that can help you locate and understand existing community health data (like lead, asthma, and cancer rates) and environmental data (like air, soil, and water contamination levels), and measure changes in the health of your community.
- Committed, knowledgeable staff to assist your community—whether you are just getting started or already in the redevelopment process.



From abandoned gas station to community health center

In Clearwater, FL, the redevelopment of brownfields directly benefited the health of residents in one of the city's poorest neighborhoods.

Mrs. Willa Carson, a retired nurse, ran a free community health center out of two apartments. Her mission was to provide free, quality health care to uninsured and underserved residents.



In the same neighborhood there was a rundown, abandoned gas station.

Residents decided that the site would be an ideal location for Willa Carson's clinic.

The city obtained \$150,000 in State Brownfields Redevelopment funding to:

- Obtain the property title and resolve liens.
- Remove underground storage tanks and hydraulic lifts.
- Remove 450 tons (or 45 dump truck loads) of contaminated soil.

Other funding from the state (including a Community Development Block Grant) was used to demolish the rundown structure and construct the Willa Carson Community Health Resource Center. Now, each year up to 7,000 community residents receive free bilingual health care.

We help get results

We have worked with communities on the creative and affordable reuse of properties. Many of these communities have seen:

- Increased access to community health center services.
- Increased community activities to promote healthy lifestyles including community gardens, parks, and paths for walking or biking.
- Decreased crime rates and safer neighborhoods.
- Increased economic opportunities, property values, and adult education.

We partner with communities to develop tailored strategies to improve health.

We can do many things to help—it all depends on your community's interests and needs.

Together, we can create healthier places for everyone.

Let's talk about your community.



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Visit us at:
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