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LDEQ/EPA Awards Five EPA Brownfields Grants to Louisiana Recipients

Violet, La. – Five Louisiana communities and organizations receive \$3.2 million in grants to spur revitalization at Brownfield sites, address environmental concerns, and train the next generation of environmental professionals across the state.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Region 6 and Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality’s (LDEQ) Brownfields Program has awarded five EPA Brownfields Grants to the Cities of Baker, Bogalusa, and Alexandria, the Rapides Area Planning Commission, and Honeybee Strategies.

“Addressing brownfield sites across Louisiana is a top priority of our administration,” **said LDEQ Secretary Aurelia Giacometto.** “It is important that we return these sites not only to a safe condition in which the public has confidence but also to ultimate productivity.”



The Louisiana EPA Brownfields grant recipients were presented with checks at the 2024 Louisiana Brownfields Conference.

The federal government defines brownfields as “abandoned, idled or underused industrial and commercial properties where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination.”

Roxanne Welch with EPA Region 6 along with LDEQ’s Deputy Secretary Jordan DesHotels presented the grants at the 2024 Louisiana Brownfields Conference.

“The City of Alexandria is excited to accept this EPA Brownfield Clean-up Grant! The City has invested lots of time and resources into the 210 Bolton Avenue site and this grant will help us to put this property back into commerce after being stagnant for decades. Our goal is to build a new ATRANS Bus Terminal on this site to serve a very dense surrounding population where there is a lack of transportation. We are looking forward to bringing this property, on a very prominent corridor, back to life!” said Shirley Branham.

Over 60 people representing Louisiana communities, non-profits, and industries gathered at Docville Farm in Violet, from June 5-6, 2024, to participate in the conference. The event brought together local brownfield partners, such as real estate developers and professionals, local Brownfields programs, environmental consultants, municipal leaders and staff, and other entities involved in the redevelopment of vacant and

underutilized sites. Attendees learned about the various stages of the environmental process and the resources available to support their reuse.

Entity	Grant Type	Amount
City of Alexandria	Brownfield Cleanup Grant: Cleanup Former Rush's Cleaners Site located at 210 Bolton Avenue	\$1,290,550
City of Bogalusa	Brownfield Community-Wide Assessment Grant: Conduct environmental assessments and Brownfield Planning Activities in Bogalusa	\$500,000
City of Baker	Brownfield Community-Wide Assessment Grant: Conduct environmental assessments and Brownfield Planning Activities in Baker	\$500,000
Rapides Area Planning Commission	Brownfield Community-Wide Assessment Grant: Conduct environmental assessments and Brownfield Planning Activities in Pineville	\$500,000
Honey Bee Strategies	Brownfields Job Training Grant: Train people who are underemployed or challenging to employ to prepare them for careers in the environmental field	\$500,000

Conference partners included the St. Bernard Economic Development Foundation, the Regional Planning Commission, the Louisiana Brownfields Association, Kansas State University's Technical Assistance to Brownfields, and the Louisiana Municipal Advisory and Technical Services Bureau.

To learn more about the Louisiana Brownfields program, visit <https://deq.louisiana.gov/brownfields>.