**NJ Brownfields Assistance Center @ NJIT**

Former industrial properties such as abandoned factories and mills, and former commercial properties such as closed gas stations, dry cleaners, and old banks that are contaminated, or perceived to be contaminated, plague our communities. These ‘brownfields’ lay vacant or underutilized for decades, negatively impacting our quality of life.

The cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields are unique opportunities - to catalyze economic development, generate jobs, and increase property values; to improve environmental conditions and help communities be more resilient to the negative impacts of climate change; and to create more socially equitable communities by developing community needed land uses such as schools, health care facilities, food stores, housing, and retail and commercial uses.

Unfortunately, most local governments do not have the in-house knowledge or expertise to advance these sites through the assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment processes. Many communities have either no, or limited resources, including funding. These challenges are compounded by weak real estate markets being experienced in many of our communities. The process of assessing, cleaning up, and redeveloping a brownfield site can be complicated. That is why NJIT created the NJ Brownfields Assistance Center @ NJIT – to help communities overcome their brownfield hurdles, advancing these properties towards the redevelopment finish line.

The NJ Brownfields Assistance Center @ NJIT’s team of planners, engineers, environmental scientists, and social scientists brings free technical assistance, tools, strategies, resources, subject matter experts, and education to brownfields-challenged communities to help transform these sites into community assets. The Center partners with state agencies and the private sector to help advance the practice, build community capacity, and guide communities as they navigate the redevelopment process.

*Visit us at* [*https://www.njit.edu/njbrownfields*](https://www.njit.edu/njbrownfields)*.*

*For more information about our free technical assistance to the public sector and nonprofits, as well as ways the private sector can partner with the Center, please contact Colette Santasieri, PhD at santasieri@njit.edu.*