

**ANNUAL OUTREACH EVALUATION REPORT  
GEOGRAPHICAL AREA 5, 6 and 7  
(EPA REGIONS 5, 6, 7 and 8)  
Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Communities  
5th Project Year**

Center for Hazardous Substance Research,  
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APRIL 1, 2017 – JUNE 30, 2018

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## Introduction and Overview

Kansas State University (KSU) completed the fourth operating year of the Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Program in Geographical Areas 5, 6, & 7 (EPA Regions 5 - 8) during April 2017 to June 2018. This report provides an evaluation of each of four tasks that comprise the TAB Program: site-specific service, workshops and webinars, online e-tools and resources, and participatory evaluation. As summarized below, TAB's third-year goals were generally met or exceeded.

Multiple sources of data were used in evaluating the TAB Program. They include service provider documentation, participant surveys, quarterly reports, and website usage reports. Data in this report may be updated as part of KSU TAB's continual evaluation process.

### Task 1. Site-specific Technical Assistance to Communities

Site-specific technical assistance is the main activity of the TAB program. Sources of data for documenting services provided are quarterly reports produced by TAB program staff, based on reports from service providers. Quantitative goals for site service are listed in the table below, along with actual levels of service and an indication of whether the target goals were met.

#### *Target goals and outcomes for site-specific service*

<b>Target goals</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Target met</b>
40-60 communities/year	206	Yes
One site/state/year	100%	Yes
50% with population of less than 100K	70%	Yes
25% with population of less than 10K	34%	Yes
25% environmental justice communities	29%	No*

All goals were met or exceeded, with the exception of 25% of communities served being special regional brownfields sites and environmental justice communities. Overall, TAB far exceeded its goal of total communities served (Goal 40-60, Actual 206). The number of environmental justice communities provided site services in the reporting period was 59.

Two hundred and six communities received site specific services during this project year. Support to more than 100 communities served during the project period is ongoing. Over 30 sites involve sustainable reuse initiatives. Sites served comprise at least 2000 acres.

TAB provides a range of services to communities in its 21 state service area. The table below provides an overview of the types of services provided to communities during the reporting period. While all site services that TAB provides were delivered during the reporting period, the most common services include answering questions related to EPA's Area-Wide Planning; Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup (ARC); and Job Training and non-EPA grants, document reviews, and identification of resources.

### Task 1 Summation

TAB met or exceeded four of its goals for site service in the project period: total number of communities served, communities with populations of less than 100,000, communities with

populations of less than 10,000, environmental justice communities. One goal not met was the percentage of special regional sites, based on the total actual number of communities served (121). However, this goal was met if based on the yearly goal for communities served (40-60 communities). Another goal, was that we did not assist a community in two states (Utah and North Dakota, as the state brownfield coordinators felt cities were not currently receptive to environmental and federal programs).

A range of sites are being served including assessment, cleanup and area-wide planning. Services to approximately 75% of communities served will continue into the next reporting period. The types of services being provided most frequently (document review, identifying resources, and EPA and other grant questions) indicate that a number of sites are in the early stages of the brownfield redevelopment process, where TAB support is useful in helping communities develop the capacity for engaging in redevelopment projects.

### **Task 2. Workshops and Webinars**

Workshops, webinars, and invited presentations provide additional opportunities for TAB to provide communities with information and education about the brownfields redevelopment process. This section provides an overview of these activities, as well as evaluation of their effectiveness. Sources of data from this section are quarterly reports produced by TAB program staff and quantitative and qualitative data from surveys administered at workshops and webinars.

#### **Workshops**

Goals for educational workshops were to participate in 23 workshops cooperatively with others, with one in each state, if possible. During the reporting cycle, TAB was significantly involved in a total of 28 workshops: 21 Economic Revitalization Workshops, four EPA Brownfield Grant Proposal Writing Strategies Workshops and three combined workshops. Close to 3,000 participants attended these workshops.

#### ***Population served.***

Participants were asked to indicate the size of the communities they represent. Workshops participants represented a range of stakeholders in the brownfields process. The most frequently represented stakeholders were city or county staff/representatives, economic development, consultants, community development, and non-profit organizations.

#### ***Workshop outcomes.***

Workshop participants are asked to complete a Retrospective-Post survey form at the completion of the workshop. The survey asked questions that measure changes in participants' knowledge about brownfields, their readiness to participate in brownfield redevelopment or grant writing, and perceptions of available resources before and after the workshop.

#### ***Useful experience.***

Participants were asked to what degree they thought they would be able to use what they learned in the workshop in their jobs or communities, using a scale of one to five, where one equals no. More than half of participants rated the degree of usefulness at four or higher, with over half of participants choosing five.

### ***Preparedness.***

Depending on the type of workshop, participants were asked how prepared they were to participate in brownfield redevelopment or write a grant for brownfields funding. Prior to the workshop, almost half reported their level of preparedness to be somewhat prepared to very prepared. Analysis indicates that the participants' level of preparedness increased as a result of attending the workshop.

### ***Available resources.***

Depending on the type of workshop, participants were asked about their perception of resources available to help with brownfield redevelopment or writing a brownfield grant. Prior to the workshop, less than a quarter of participants reported they felt their cup to be at least three-fourths full. After the workshop, more than half of participants reported they felt their cup of resources to be at least three-fourths full. Analysis indicates that the participants' perception of available resources increased as a result of attending the workshop and that the change was not due to chance.

### **Invited and Other Presentations**

TAB representatives routinely provide education on brownfields to a variety of organizations and events nationally and in the 21 state service area.

### **Task 2 Summation**

TAB exceeded its goals for the number of workshops offered in the reporting period (28 workshops; the yearly goal is 23). TAB physically offered workshops in 19 states during the reporting period. Utah and North Dakota were the only states that were not served in some way by a workshop, as the state brownfields coordinators felt cities were not currently receptive to environmental and federal programs.

TAB did not meet its goal of providing 40 webinars. In response to low interest in webinars from individual states and Regions, TAB promoted the events more widely and archived them to make them available for a wider audience of viewers. Nine webinars were held. These were a combination of national and statewide webinars, which gave individuals in each of the 21 states an opportunity to view a webinar at least twice each year; which was the rationale for the goal of 40 (approximately one webinar available to each state served).

### **Task 3. On-line E-Tools and Resources**

K-State TAB continues to grow its online E-Tools and resources, providing multiple paths for its target audiences to access brownfield information. The K-State TAB website is at [www.ksutab.org](http://www.ksutab.org). During the reporting period, the site was visited 6,742 times by 3,779 different users.

During the this project year, 1,042 new users registered on [www.ksutab.org](http://www.ksutab.org). There are 6,374 active registered users (users who have accounts, which are required to register for workshops and webinars and to access TAB EZ, BIT and on-line training).

TAB EZ usage data indicates that over 70 proposals were drafted in TAB EZ, and that approximately 75 other proposals were drafted outside of TAB EZ in a separate word processing program, while users viewed TAB EZ as a reference.

In July 2017, TAB began working on a smartphone App for BIT. In December, we showcased some of its capability at the 2017 Brownfields Conference. Extensive testing of the app was performed throughout May and June 2018 and it is anticipated the app will be released in August 2018. We expect regular usage of BIT, and reporting to ACRES from BIT, to increase significantly upon completion of Phase 2 of the BIT-ACRES Interface.

The KSU TAB Online Training Program Series consists of pre-recorded webinar modules, supplemental materials and review questions. A certificate is issued upon successful completion of each program and contact hours credit is available.

- We now have eight online training programs. Online training programs are available at <https://www.ksutab.org/education/training>.
  - Brownfield Basics (\*Additional module on leveraging funds to be added at a later date)
  - Environmental Planning/NEPA: Using Federal Processes to Promote Local Objectives
  - Greener Cleanups for Brownfields
  - Harvesting Energy: Including Performance Contracting
  - Historic Preservation and Brownfield Redevelopment
  - Infrastructure for Green Redevelopment of Brownfields
  - Transit Oriented Development
  - Tribal TRP 128(a) Brownfields, Tier I
- Under development:
  - Economic Development, Economic/Fiscal Impact Analysis, and Public Finance
  - Tribal TRP 128(a) Brownfields, Tier II

### **Task 3 Summation**

The use of the [www.ksutab.org](http://www.ksutab.org) website has increased from the last reporting period, with an increase in use of the site by TAB's target audiences.

### **Task 4. Participatory Evaluation**

TAB's goal is to develop the Community Brownfield Redevelopment Capacity Rubric for measuring, tracking and evaluating the long-term impact of Site-Specific Technical Assistance. The rubric will allow TAB to capture service providers and recipient perspectives on progress at sites to more accurately measure needs and gains.

Currently, the rubric is in the peer review stage, with a pilot anticipated in Summer and Fall of 2016. The tool was developed by a working group comprised of representatives from the major stakeholders in the TAB program (communities, state environmental agencies, EPA, and TAB service providers). The peer review process is scheduled for completion in the near future. The peer reviewers also represent TAB program stakeholders. A version of the draft rubric is available in the appendix.

### **Task 4 Summation**

Progress on the development of the rubric was slower than anticipated, but the goals will be

achieved within the project period. Wendy Griswold, now at University of Memphis, will continue to work on this. KSU has teamed with the University of Memphis, with funding built into TAB Proposals for the next project period, which would allow for Wendy and a grad student to put more focus on this.

### **Conclusions**

The table below shows the overall anticipated TAB Program outcomes and outputs. As the above review of program activities revealed, significant progress was made in achieving or exceeding program outputs on most of the items listed in the table below. Goals were “technically” not achieved in the areas of assisting at least one community and offering one workshop in each state, and performing 40 webinars. However, these are dependent on communities and states requesting/agreeing to these activities once they are made aware of their availability. TAB far exceeded goals of total communities assisted (206) and workshops offered (28), and only two states were not served (Utah and North Dakota, as the state brownfield coordinators felt cities were not currently receptive to environmental and federal programs). Although states and EPA Regional partners were generally not interested in webinars, the eight total webinars offered by TAB were archived and promoted widely, and made available to participants in each of the 21 states in our service area at least twice (which might be thought of the opportunity to view 42 webinars, on a per-state basis). TAB expects these areas to quantitatively improve in the next reporting cycle, assuming there is interest by state and local partners.

*Table 8  
Overall program outcomes and outputs*

<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Outputs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased recognition, assessment, cleanup, and sustainable reuse of brownfields to reduce environmental contamination</li> <li>• Better inform and equip communities to effectively address and be involved in brownfields activities</li> <li>• Greater knowledge of environmental and human health conditions in micro, environmental justice and newly created brownfields communities</li> <li>• Greater community involvement, communication, and partnerships among differing stakeholders; leveraging partnerships for funding</li> <li>• Enable communities to stimulate economic and other beneficial reuses of brownfields sites to improve environmental conditions and human health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site specific Technical Assistance to communities, 40-60 communities/year</li> <li>• 20 Workshops and 40 Webinars/year</li> <li>• Update and maintain On-line E-tools and Resources (BIT/TABEZ/Additional Resources)*</li> <li>• Implement Participatory Evaluation Strategies</li> <li>• Annual and quarterly reporting to EPA headquarters, regional offices, TAB partners, and other interested parties</li> </ul>
	<p>* Note: on-line e-tools are national in scope</p>

The evaluation results indicate that program outputs are supportive of addressing outcomes.

### **Outcome 1: Increased Recognition, Assessment, Cleanup, and Sustainable Reuse of Brownfields to Reduce Environmental Contamination**

With respect to site specific services provided, at least 2055 acres of brownfield property are being addressed. Most of the sites are related to assessment and/or cleanup activities and at least 31 involve at least one element of sustainable reuse. This count does not include the many acres associated with more than 70 area-wide assessment, coalition assessment, and planning proposal initiatives that TAB assisted communities with this year.

With respect to workshops, participants indicated their intentions to take action related to assessing and cleaning up property. Based on last year's results, more than half reported they were somewhat to very likely to apply for a cleanup grant and/or an assessment grant. More than half reported they were very likely to investigate possible redevelopment opportunities for brownfields in their communities. These figures are being updated for the current year.

### **Outcome 2: Better Inform and Equip Communities to Effectively Address and Be Involved in Brownfields Activities**

TAB's site specific services provide opportunities for local participants to learn about the brownfield redevelopment process through real world application and involvement in their own projects. During this reporting cycle, over 150 communities participated in activities that help them develop the capacity to engage in brownfield redevelopment.

Workshops and webinars are also pathways of providing education and capacity building to communities involved in brownfield activities. Participants in TAB programs report increased knowledge of brownfields and brownfield-related topics and resources, as well as increased readiness for taking action. Workshop participants in the previous year reported significant changes in their readiness to participate in brownfields redevelopment and in their awareness of resources available to them. These figures are being updated for this report period.

### **Outcome 3: Greater Knowledge of Environmental and Human Health Conditions in Micro, Environmental Justice and Newly Created Brownfields Communities**

TAB is increasing its focus on underserved communities who generally have greater resource deficiencies. TAB met its goal of 25% of served sites being micro communities and 25% being environmental justice communities.

### **Outcome 4: Greater Community Involvement, Communication, and Partnerships Among Differing Stakeholders; Leveraging Partnerships For Funding**

Site specific service often provides opportunities for community involvement and relationship building. TAB attended community/stakeholder meetings in more than 58 communities, worked with 19 communities on addressing community education and stakeholder needs, with 21 communities in re-use visioning sessions, and with 8 communities on local workshops. All of these activities bring stakeholders together to focus their efforts on advancing redevelopment projects.

TAB workshops also provide opportunities for stakeholders to network and develop relationships. Representatives from several of stakeholder groups attend workshops. Many participants also report that they intend to share knowledge learned at the workshops with others in their community. Data from past years' webinars underscores the intentions of participants in



TAB programs to communicate with others about brownfield issues: More than half of participants reported they were somewhat to very likely to relay information from the program to others.

### **Outcome 5: Enable Communities to Stimulate Economic and Other Beneficial Reuses of Brownfields Sites to Improve Environmental Conditions and Human Health**

During the reporting period, TAB worked with 77 communities to identify resources to assist with brownfield redevelopment efforts. TAB also engaged 41 communities in evaluating redevelopment options. Workshops offered also increased participants perception of the resources available to them and their readiness to participate in brownfield redevelopment efforts (see outcome 2 above).

### **Recommendations/Action Steps**

TAB made progress on all tasks and achieved or exceeded many of its goals in the reporting period. Specific areas of focus for next year are listed below.

#### Site Specific Service

- Increase the number of special regional issues communities served (as a percentage of actual total communities served [204 total served this year] – goal was met based on initial goal [for 40-60] total communities served)

#### Workshops and Webinars

- Offer one workshop in every state or that at least serves every state by (UT and ND declined offers); and increase the number of state-specific webinars, if state and local partners are interested.

#### On-Line E-Tools and Resources

- Promote the availability of online training programs
- Upon upgrades, promote the availability of the BIT – ACRES interface in the Brownfields Inventory Tool

#### Participatory Evaluation

- Complete pilot testing of Community Brownfield Redevelopment Capacity rubric
- Establish guidance/procedures for administering rubric and utilizing data.