Cleanup and Collaboration Result in Widespread Beneficial Effects for Local Communities
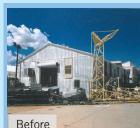
For over three decades, EPA's Superfund program and its partners have remediated contaminated hazardous waste sites and furthered community goals for reuse. Communities reuse Superfund sites in many ways – parks, shopping centers, athletic fields, wildlife sanctuaries, manufacturing facilities, residences, roads and more.

Many reuse outcomes can play a role in economically revitalizing a community.

Before

The 446-acre Midvale Slag Superfund site in Midvale, Utah, was once home to five smelters that processed lead and copper ore. Today, shopping centers, office space, neighborhoods, affordable housing, a light rail station, a park and riverside trails are located on site.

After

Before

Decades of industrial activities and improper waste disposal contaminated soil and groundwater at the 10-square-mile Tucson International Airport Area Superfund site in Tucson, Arizona. Today, over 70 new and long-time businesses operate at the site, providing aviation-related industrial and commercial services.

After

How Superfund Makes a Difference in Communities

EPA measures the economic beneficial effects of reuse at Superfund sites by collecting the following types of information:

- Number of businesses located on site.
- Number of people employed at site businesses.
- Annual employment income from on-site jobs.
- Annual sales revenue generated by businesses on site.
- On-site property value and property tax information.
- Other economic impacts that are unique to specific sites.

Understanding these benefits helps EPA and communities communicate about the important difference Superfund cleanups make for local economies and quality of life.

What are the Benefits of Reuse?

As of 2023, there were over 1,000 non-federal facility Superfund sites in new or continued use. At 692 of those sites, 10,261 businesses employ over 237,000 people, providing about $18.8 billion in estimated annual employment income. In 2023, those businesses generated over $71 billion in estimated annual sales revenue.

Before **Source: NJDEP**

In Jersey City, New Jersey, landfilling and illegal waste disposal took place along the Hackensack River between 1970 and the mid-1980s. These activities contaminated soil and groundwater at the 87-acre PJP Landfill Superfund site. Today, three on-site businesses support the local economy. Restored wetlands at the site provide wildlife habitat. Walkways and benches provide a riverfront recreation amenity.

After

JOB DEVELOPMENT

In FY 2023, at 692 Superfund sites in reuse:

10,261	237,054	$18.8B
businesses operating	people employed	annual employment income

REVENUE

At these Superfund sites, **EPA spent $20+ billion**

In 2023 at these sites, operating **businesses generated $71+ billion**

more than 3x EPA spending

Over the past 13 years, operating **businesses generated $686+ billion**

more than 33x EPA spending

National economic information and regional economic reports are available on the Superfund Redevelopment Program's (SRP's) Redevelopment Economics at Superfund Sites webpage at www.epa.gov/superfund-redevelopment/redevelopment-economics-superfund-sites.

Site-specific case studies contain detailed information about the economic benefits associated with site businesses, in addition to benefits provided by particular uses, such as alternative energy or recreation.

Case studies are available on the Redevelopment Economics at Superfund Sites webpage at www.epa.gov/superfund-redevelopment/redevelopment-economics-superfund-sites#local.

For more information about Superfund redevelopment, visit:

SRP's homepage at www.epa.gov/superfund-redevelopment

SRP's Redevelopment Economics at Superfund Sites webpage at www.epa.gov/superfund-redevelopment/redevelopment-economics-superfund-sites

SUPERFUND REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

>> Front page photograph: Revitalized waterfront along the Thea Foss Waterway, part of the Commencement Bay, Near Shore/Tide Flats Superfund site in Tacoma, Washington.

March 2024

EPA

Superfund Redevelopment Program
Redevelopment Economics: Beneficial Effects of Site Reuse

Working with our tribal and state partners to return Superfund sites to beneficial use.