

**For Immediate Release**  
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## Clean Ohio Proposes Streamlining Approval Process for Brownfield Projects

**Columbus** – The Clean Ohio Council today announced a draft, streamlined process for funding brownfield projects. The process would create a single brownfield incentive program by combining Clean Ohio’s Revitalization Fund and Assistance Fund, which would be managed through a collaboration of the Ohio Department of Development’s [Office of Redevelopment](#), [JobsOhio](#), and the [Clean Ohio Council](#). All brownfield project requests would begin with JobsOhio and its regional network partners.

“The improved process would allow for more comprehensive assistance packages to be utilized for revitalization efforts, which ultimately create Ohio jobs and make our communities more vibrant,” said Christiane Schmenk. “This is a transition year for Clean Ohio and we are pleased with the state’s commitment in ensuring this valuable tool continues.”

Clean Ohio funding assists projects in acquiring property, demolishing structures, conducting environmental cleanup, and improving infrastructure. Funding requests would be accepted by JobsOhio and its regional network partners, who would evaluate a project’s economic benefits. Clean Ohio grant recommendations would then be referred to the Director of Development or Clean Ohio Council for review and potential approval.

The Ohio General Assembly approved \$15 million for brownfield grant funding earlier this year, a measure taken due to the delay in the liquor enterprise transfer agreement with JobsOhio. Once that agreement is completed and the transfer occurs, funding for the program will be provided by JobsOhio in its entirety and return to more consistent historical levels.

In addition to the proposed streamlined process, the Council announced that the grant funding may soon be available on a rolling cycle, as opposed to having specific funding rounds. Up to \$1 million would be available per project for cleanup activities and \$200,000 per project would be available for environmental assessment activities. Additional brownfield funding would be available through the Brownfield Loan Program, which is also administered by the Ohio Department of Development’s Office of Redevelopment.

The Clean Ohio Council is allowing for a 30-day public comment period regarding the proposed changes. Comments can be submitted to [Redevelopment@development.ohio.gov](mailto:Redevelopment@development.ohio.gov) with the subject line “Clean Ohio Public Comment.” JobsOhio will begin accepting funding requests on October 1, 2012 for brownfield project funding in preparation for the approved process. Funding may include a combination grant and loan, utilizing the \$15 million brownfield grant funding and the Brownfield Loan Program.

*The **Clean Ohio Fund** restores, protects, and connects Ohio's important natural and urban places by preserving green space and farmland, improving outdoor recreation, and by cleaning up brownfields to encourage*

redevelopment and revitalize communities. For more information about the Clean Ohio Fund, visit [www.clean.ohio.gov](http://www.clean.ohio.gov).

The **Office of Redevelopment**, located within the Ohio Department of Development's Community Services Division, assists communities with place-based redevelopment which creates wealth from personal, business, and community successes. The **Office of Redevelopment** works to identify the resources and financing necessary to enhance the economic viability of local communities.

Working with our partners across business, state and local governments, academia, and the nonprofit sector, the **Ohio Department of Development** works to support business attraction and retention efforts by providing targeted investments that assist in job creation, as well as provides assistance and services to Ohio's communities and individuals. Engaged every day in marketing, innovating, investing, and collaborating, the **Ohio Department of Development** works to accelerate and support the teamwork that is necessary for success by providing financial, informational, and technical assistance to those making an investment in Ohio's future.

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