

BROWNFIELD CURIOUS: UNEARTHING POTENTIAL OF BROWNFIELDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



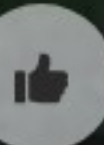
*Thank you for joining us!
We will begin the webinar
shortly.*



GROUNDWORK USA

**BROWNFIELD CURIOUS:
UNEARTHING POTENTIAL OF
BROWNFIELDS FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

February 7 , 2024



Agenda

01

GWUSA & Brownfield Technical Assistance

02

What are brownfields?

03

Brownfields & Equitable Development

04

How Brownfields Can Benefit your Community

05

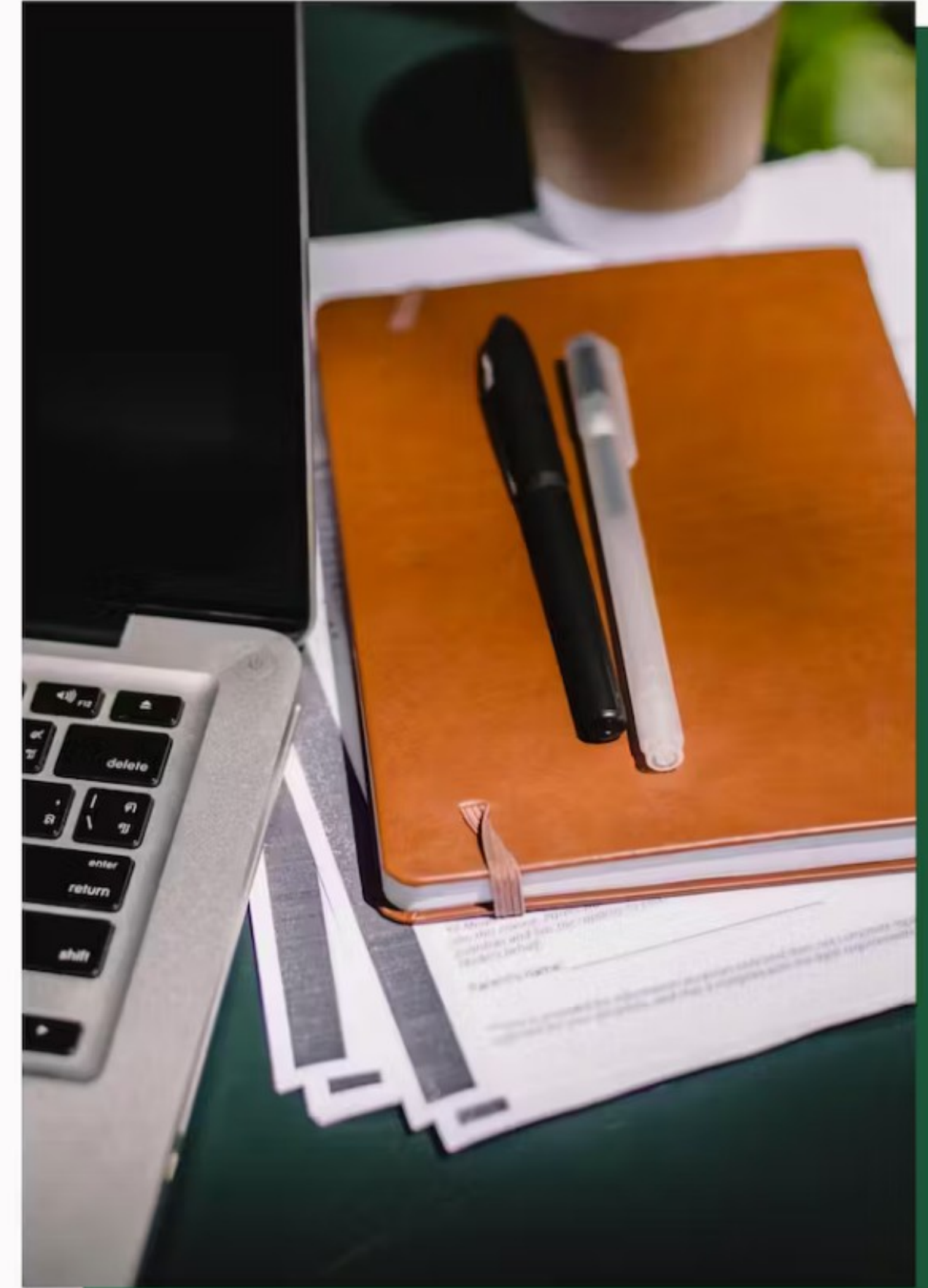
Brownfield Transformations

06

Question & Answer

07

How to learn more



GROUNDWORK USA



Groundwork USA envisions a world in which everyone lives in a community that is healthy, green, just, and resilient.



NONPROFIT BROWNFIELD TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Five year nationwide technical assistance program specifically tailored to nonprofits

- Increase the capacity of non-profits working in communities with brownfields, to transform those spaces with **environmental and equity as guiding principles**
- **Transforming spaces into community assets** such as parks, trails, urban farms, community centers, recreational facilities, affordable housing and commercial space, farmers markets, arts and culture centers, and more
- **Improve public health** in their communities



HOW OUR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CAN SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITIES

Nationwide Technical Assistance

**DIRECT TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE**

**WEBINARS &
WORKSHOPS**

**VISUAL
RESOURCE HUB**



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BROWNFIELD CURIOUS

THREE-PART WEBINAR SERIES



- 1** Introduce the **brownfields process** and explore why you should consider **brownfield revitalization to address community concerns** around food security, climate adaptation, and access to the outdoors.
- 2** This session will cover brownfield revitalization, including **steps, timelines, funding, stakeholders, and project variability.**
- 3** In this session, we'll **explore nonprofit roles in brownfield remediation**, dispel myths, and introduce cross-sector collaborators in the revitalization process.

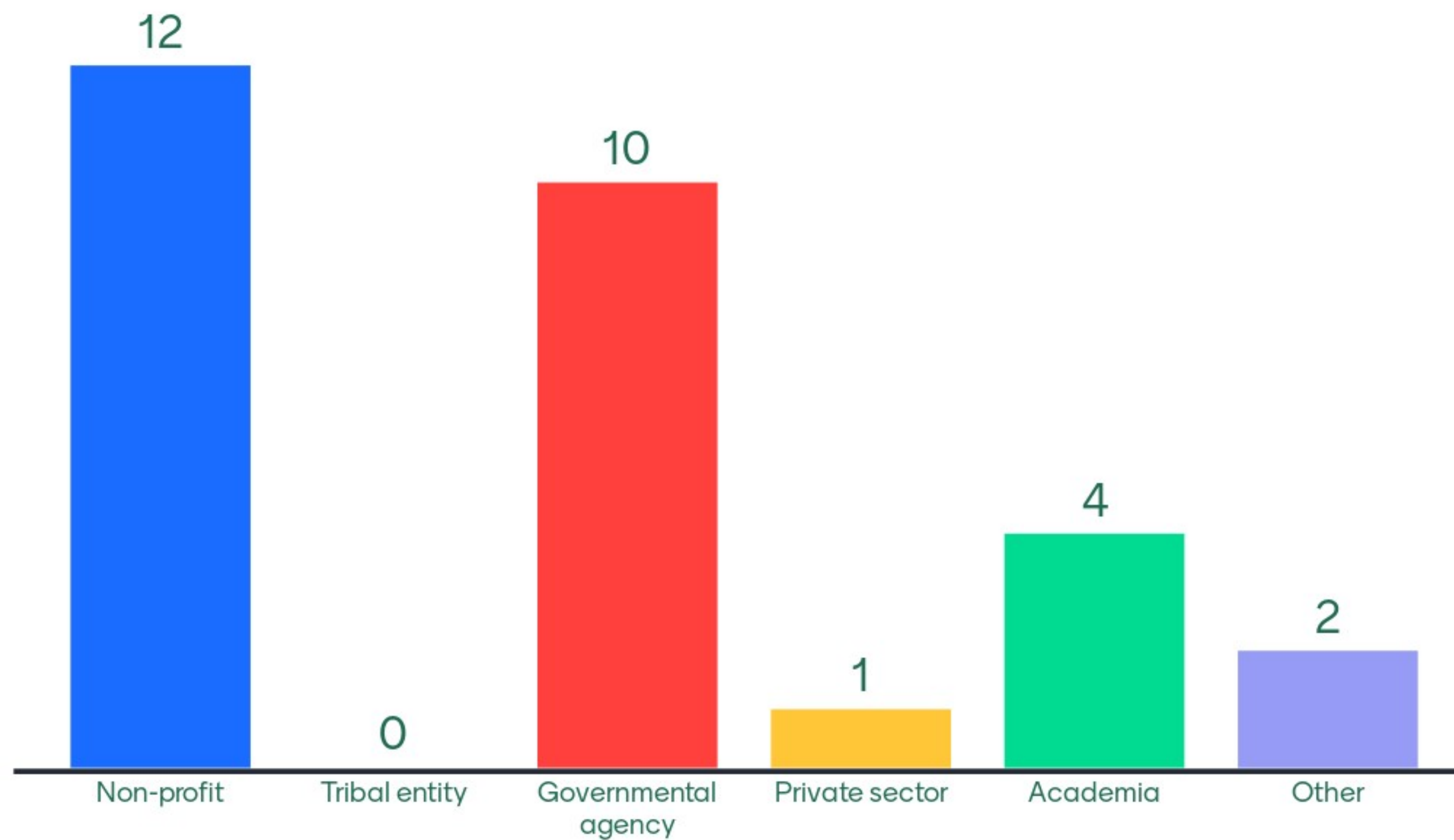




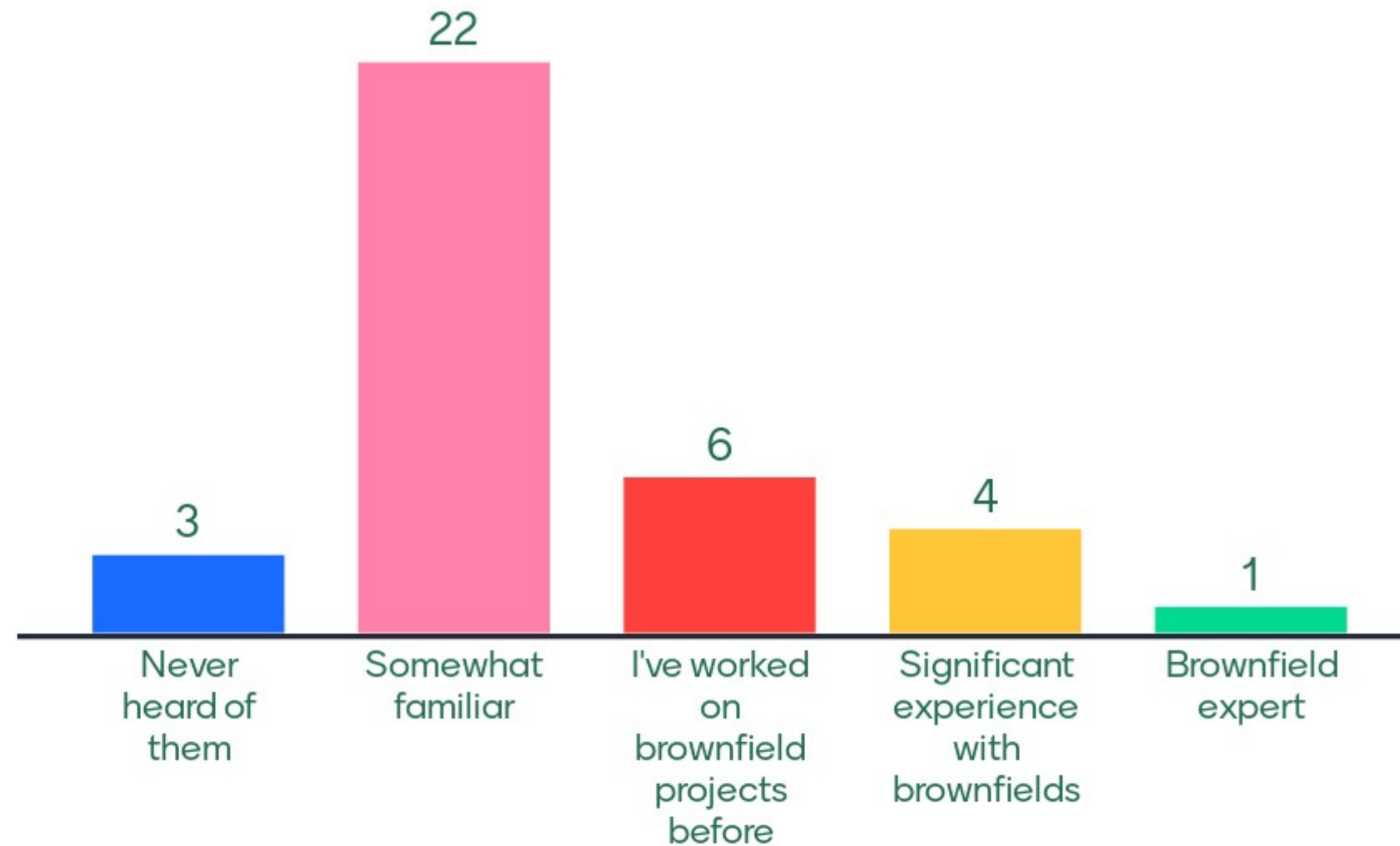
PARTICIPANT POLL



What entity do you represent?



HOW WOULD YOU RATE YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF BROWNFIELDS?



WHAT'S ARE SOME WORDS THAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU THINK OF BROWNFIELDS?

87 responses



WHAT IS A BROWNFIELD?

EPA DEFINITION:

“A BROWNFIELD IS A PROPERTY, THE EXPANSION, REDEVELOPMENT, OR REUSE OF WHICH MAY BE COMPLICATED BY THE PRESENCE OR POTENTIAL PRESENCE OF A HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE, POLLUTANT, OR CONTAMINANT.”



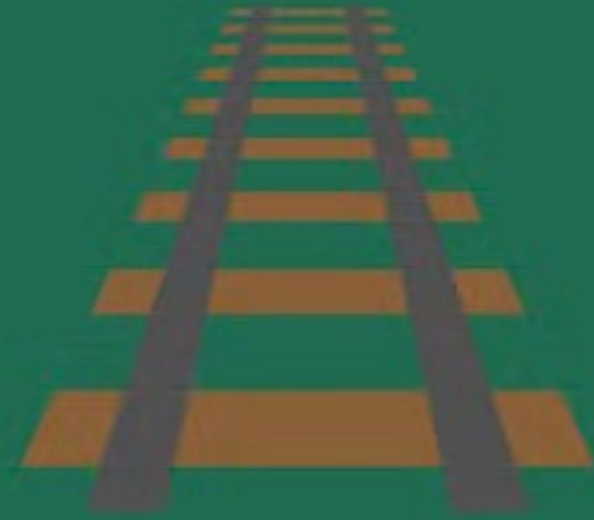
PAST PROPERTY USE!



Illegal dumping



Dry Cleaners



Rail facilities



Automotive repair



Agriculture land and facilities



Gas stations and fuel storage



Manufacturing & industry



Residential properties

What is a brownfield?



- Housing and Residential Areas
- Gas stations and fuel storage
- Automotive Repair
- Dry Cleaners and Industrial Laundry
- Manufacturers and Power Generation
- Railroad Facilities
- Agricultural Land and Facilities
- Mines and Mining Operations
- Public and Commercial Buildings
- Metal Salvage and Recycling
- Illegal Dumping



WHAT IS A BROWNFIELD?

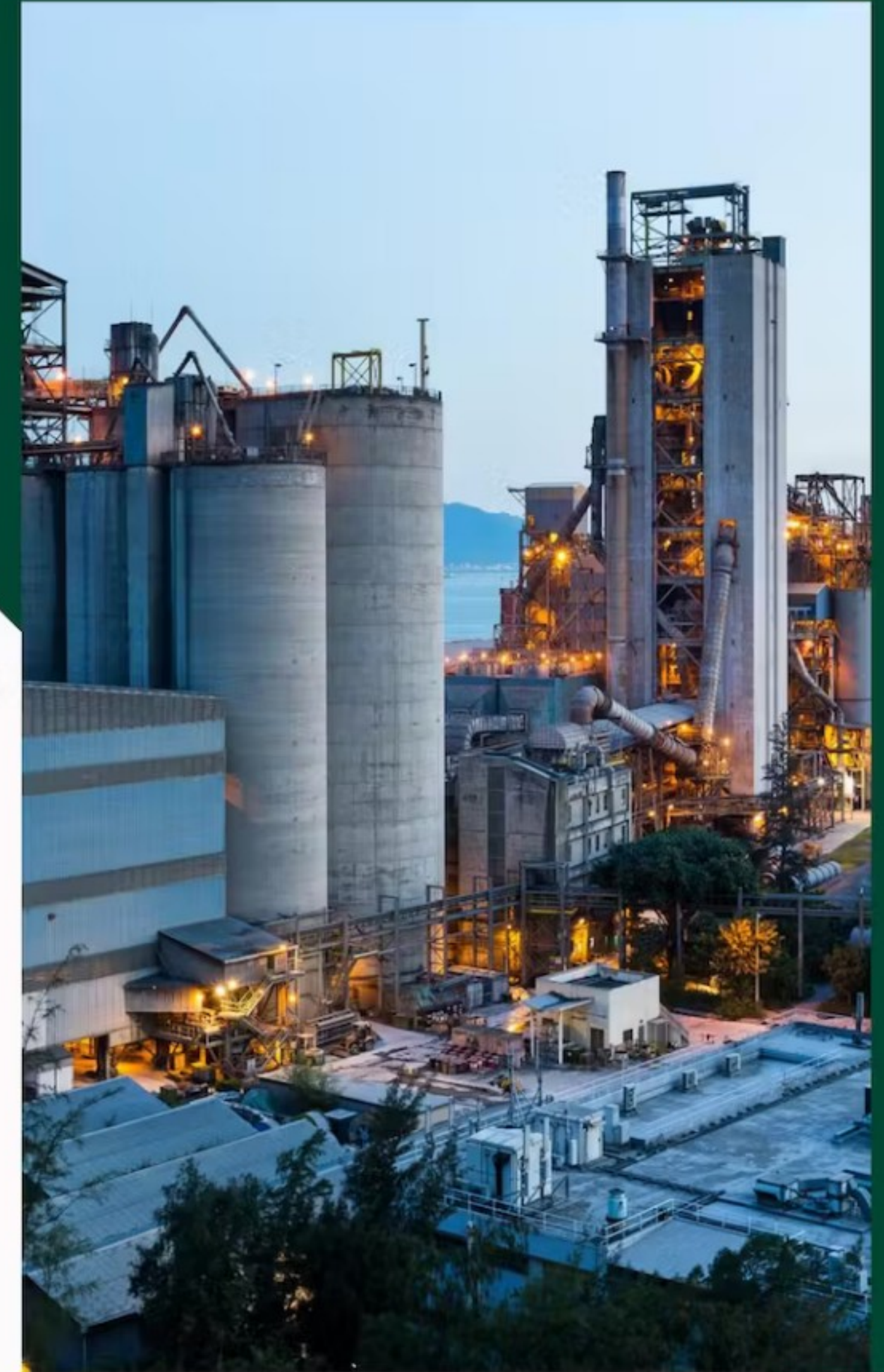
DO YOU SEE ANY OF THE
FOLLOWING:

- **Cars parked on site long term**(Leaking oil or fuel, or signs of dumping)
- Apparent owner **abandonment or long-term neglect/deferred maintenance of site**, such as overgrowth and boarded up windows
- **Visible or burnt building foundations**, pipes, tunnels, canals, underground storage tanks, etc.
- **Standing or partially standing industrial, commercial, or residential structures** with pretty clear hazards such as a collapsing roof or tilting walls

WHAT IS A BROWNFIELD?

DO YOU SEE ANY OF THE
FOLLOWING:

- Drums filled with **unidentifiable materials/liquids**
- **Former residential home burned; post-demolition debris folded into the land** (asbestos, heavy metals, or other hazards may be present from damaged construction materials)
- **Lots of pigeon poop or dead animals**—a biohazard that requires special protection to deal with due to the risk of viruses, mold, or other hazards



HOW DID BROWNFIELDS COME TO BE?

- Sanctioned industrial, commercial land uses
- Squatting; unregulated land uses
- Vacancy, abandonment, tax-title
- Structure fires
- Illegal dumping

450,000 BROWNFIELDS

WHY ARE BROWNFIELDS A CONCERN?

- Predominantly located in communities of color and low-income communities
- Hinders investment in already long-marginalized neighborhoods
- Perpetuates vacancy, eyesores, illegal dumping
- Detracts from neighborhood pride, sense of place, quality of life, health, safety and well-being

WHAT CAN BE DONE?



EPA'S BROWNFIELDS AND LAND REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

➤ GOALS

The program is designed to empower states, Tribes, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields.

➤ FUNDING RESOURCES

- Assessment
- Cleanup
- Multipurpose
- Revolving Loan Funds
- Job Training
- Technical Assistance
- State and Tribal Response Programs.



BROWNFIELD CLEANUP PROCESS



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & BROWNFIELDS

BROWNFIELDS

- Over **450,000 brownfields** in the US
- Predominantly located in **communities of color and low-income communities**

OPPORTUNITY

- Transformation leads to **environmental, health, social, and economic benefits** for communities

EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT

- Meeting the needs of communities through actions and **programs that reduce inequalities while creating physical spaces that are healthy and vibrant**



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & BROWNFIELDS



EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES AND BROWNFIELDS

- Shared leadership and decision-making
- Learn & acknowledge history of racial & social injustices
- Recognize & value local knowledge
- Meet people where they are at
- Build intentional partnerships





PARTICIPANT POLL



What type of issue areas do you work on?

housing

community engagement

Climate Resilience

Climate justice & Just
Transition

urban flooding

containing sprawl

Research on cumulative
hazard exposure

brownfield to green space

What type of issue areas do you work on?

Environmental and
Housing

Transportation justice

Electric Vehicle Charging
Station Installation

climate justice/resilience

vacant lots

redevelopment for mixed
use

Climate resilience and
community engagement

brownfields and economic
development

What type of issue areas do you work on?

Inclusive Economies,
Sustainable Communities,
Racial Equity

pluvial flooding (and green
stormwater solutions) - super
important around industrial
areas/brownfields

climate mitigation,
adaptation, resilience

Local Pollution Prevention

educational and visioning
workshops

parks

brownfield in a local
neighbourhood - govt not taking
an equitable and meaningful
engagement approach when
entering remediation process

Co-governance

What type of issue areas do you work on?

green infrastructure

rails to trails

Increasing green spaces
for community.

Addressing population decline
within areas of environmental
hazards'

Environmental Justice and
Equity

Housing and EJ near public
housing, particularly. Air quality
issues

Brownfields to Health Related
End Uses to reduce Health
Disparities.

Contaminated Creeks

What type of issue areas do you work on?

Community building,
growing community pride

Energy justice

cumulative impacts

climate justice, especially
related to gentrification and
empowering communities to
become healthier and more
stable

Climate Sustainability
Infill Development
Community

Solar farm
Economic development

Housing, EJ, recreation, Creek
Restoration, Trail
Building
Community engagement and equity

Climate and Healthcare
Resiliency

What type of issue areas do you work on?

transit advocacy

Housing injustice, community engagement. Education injustice. Health equity ect.

community education

Community Development

green space

community-driven solutions



How can brownfields benefit my community?

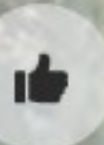
Clean up and reuse of brownfields can:

- Removes potential and actual sources of land, water, and air pollution
- Improve public health and safety
- Beautifies existing landscape and increases property values
- Increase community's resilience
- Spur job creation



How can brownfields benefit my community?

- **Climate & Environmental Advocacy**
 - Green infrastructure
 - Green and open space
 - Urban agriculture
 - Recreation
- **Education**
 - Educational facilities and training centers
- **Historic Preservation**
 - Museums
- **Housing**
 - Affordable housing developments
- **Workforce Development**
 - Brownfield cleanup jobs
- **Public Health**
 - Healthcare facilities
- **Arts & Culture**
 - Community centers



WHAT IS A BROWNFIELD?

WHAT THEY CAN BE!



Office Space



Affordable
Housing



Trees & Green
space



Parks



Renewable
Energy



Community
Garden



Commercial
Space



Arts & Culture
Venues

AND MORE!!

Why non-profits?

Non-profits are uniquely positioned to take on brownfield land reuse:

- Non-profits and CBOs are the ones leading the work addressing intersectional issues in their communities
- Expertise of local community
- Trusted partners in the community

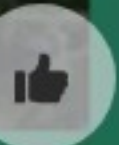


EQUITABLE BROWNFIELD REUSE TRANSFORMATIONS



SAW MILL RIVER DAYLIGHTING

YONKERS, NY



MILL CREEK GREENWAY TRAIL

CINCINNATI, OH

BEFORE



AFTER



FERROUS URBAN WILD

LAWRENCE, MA





HOW CAN BROWNFIELDS BENEFIT MY COMMUNITY?

Brownfields can transform communities

- Lends support to mission-driven work
- Another tool in your toolbox to support communities
- Funding available to support reuse



PARTICIPANT POLL

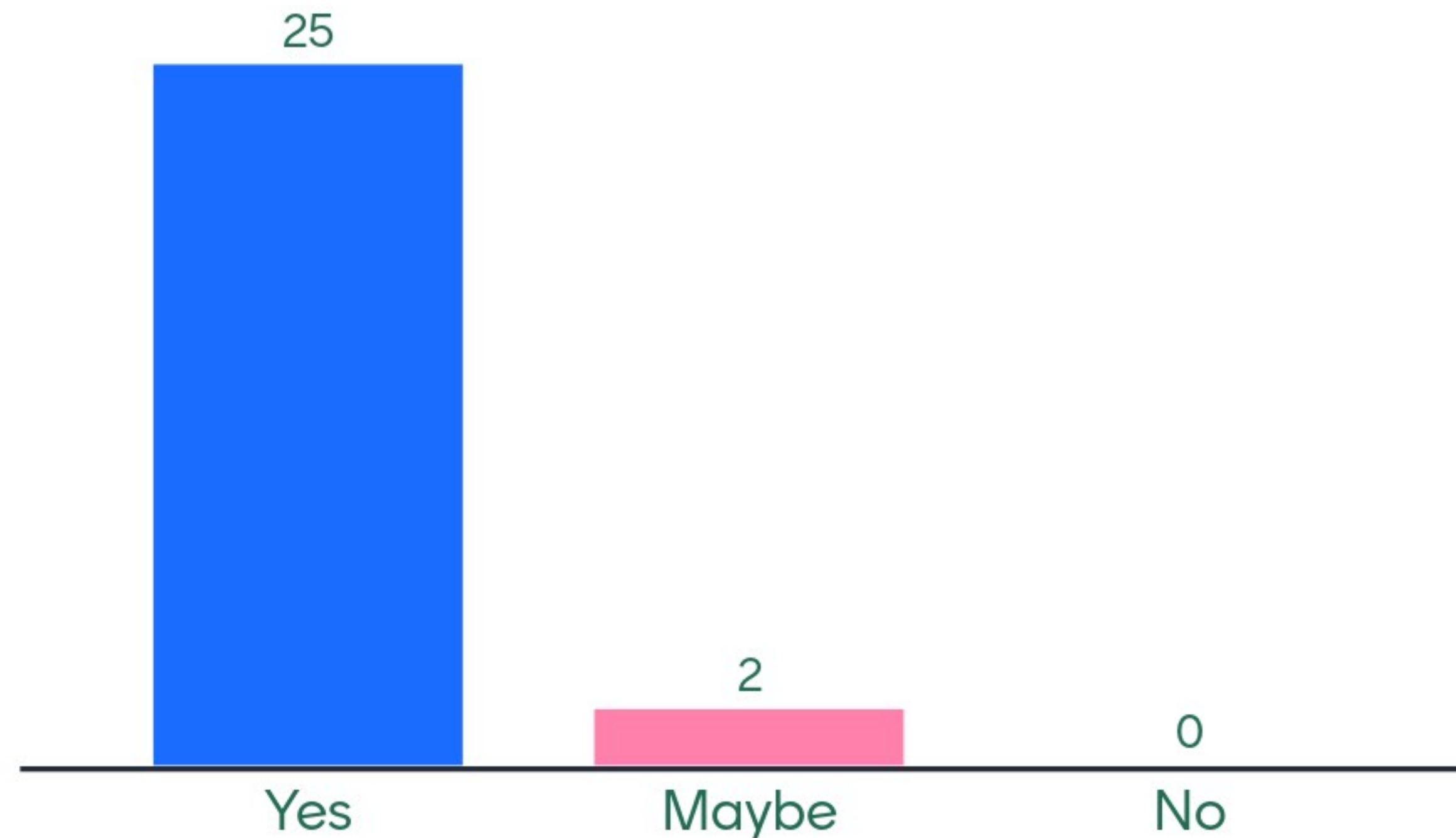


WHAT'S ARE SOME WORDS THAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU THINK OF BROWNFIELDS?

48 responses



Will you consider exploring brownfield reuse opportunities in your community?



BROWNFIELD CURIOUS SERIES

Q&A



WANT TO LEARN MORE?



RESOURCES:

- ***Groundwork USA's Equitable Development Resource Hub***
- ***Technical Assistance to Brownfield (TAB) Providers***
 - *Provide technical assistance to communities, states, Tribal Nations and other public entities to help address their brownfield sites*
- ***EPA***
 - *EPA Website*
 - *Regional Brownfield Offices*

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

COMING UP NEXT!

- BROWNFIELD CURIOUS SESSIONS 2 & 3
- NON-PROFIT SPEAKER SERIES
- SKILLS-BASED WORKSHOPS
- NON-PROFIT COACHING COHORTS

**SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER TO STAY
UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST
OPPORTUNITIES**



THANK YOU!



REACH OUT:

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