



# Call for Ideas Submission Guide

## Conference Topic Areas (Tracks)

For each conference session submitted, please be prepared to identify:

- The **target audience** (local/state/Tribal government officials, community members/community-based organizations, nonprofits, planners, consultants, engineers, developers, grantees, etc.)
- **Technical level:** beginner, intermediate, advanced
- **Presentation method:** hands-on (problem solving/collaborative), how-to (step-by-step process), case study, general/overview (high-level, informative)
- **Location and population of the community** of the project being presented
- **Credentials** of the speakers/experts (and moderators, if applicable)
  - Is there a community representative included in the slate of speakers?
- **Session title**
- **Summary of the proposed session**
- Explanation of **why the session will be of interest** to the proposed audience

The conference planning committee is looking for educational programming session ideas in the following topic areas/tracks:

### Track 1: Brownfields Financing

Please submit sessions about how to obtain and leverage financing to spur brownfields cleanup and redevelopment and how to initiate community economic development. Stakeholders want to hear from financing experts and from others who have found success in finding and leveraging funding opportunities.

As we are evaluating responses to this Call for Ideas, we will look most favorably on sessions that offer insight and training in the following areas:

- Capital stack how-to
- Finance planning
- How to find sources of funding and how to apply for grants and loans
- The role of public-private partnerships
- Leveraging HUD tax credits and grants into brownfield redevelopments

- Small, rural, and Tribal community financing options
- How to leverage public funding with private dollars
- How to identify and make use of available tax credits and other financial incentives
- State funding programs and voluntary cleanup programs
- Leveraging state and local funds for RLF matches and loan repayment
- Creatively financing brownfields redevelopment
- Real estate basics for brownfields practitioners
- Federal Programs offering funding that can lead to development on brownfields (e.g., funding to support renewable energy development on brownfields, support offered to coal communities for brownfield reuse, etc.)
- Revolving Loan Funds: underwriting, marketing, and program administration
- Pros and cons of environmental insurance
- Developers' perspective on how to finance projects

## **Track 2: Healthy and Resilient Redevelopment**

This track will highlight how brownfield revitalization can benefit the health and welfare of communities. Please submit sessions about how the health and environmental risks can be considered in planning, how communities can assess the risks of extreme weather events and natural disasters for resilient redevelopment, and how redevelopment can address root causes of disease and exposure, promote food safety and security, and expand access to care.

As we are evaluating responses to this Call for Ideas, we will look most favorably on sessions that offer insight and training in the following areas:

- Public health considerations
- Brownfields to Healthfields
- Community gardens and urban agriculture at brownfield sites
- Utilizing brownfields to expand health care access
- Projects from start to finish – how to identify and address sites for sustainability and resilience
- The role of renewable energy and how to place renewable energy alternatives on brownfields
- Incorporating flood, wildfire, and heat island mitigation actions into brownfields assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment
- Incorporating adaptation solutions into brownfields revitalization alternatives
- Implementing greener cleanup options
- Planning for resiliency
- Issues and challenges unique to small, rural, or Tribal communities in terms of place, sustainability, and resilience
- Incorporating green infrastructure into future land use designs
- Insurance, resiliency-focused financing, and the cost of inaction
- Use of mapping tools to identify future extreme weather impacts and strategies to mitigate these impacts
- Comprehensive community strategies to predict, track, and counter displacement

- Workforce development and job training
- Rails to trails and regional bikeway brownfield redevelopment
- Incorporating affordable housing in plans for brownfields redevelopment
- Placemaking, Smart Growth, or incorporating walkability/bikeability

### **Track 3: Future Economic Trends and Transformation**

The workforce, technology, and real estate markets are changing. Demand for commercial office space in some urban areas is diminishing, while the demand for housing and warehousing is increasing significantly. Please submit sessions about the impact and potential of artificial intelligence (AI) on brownfield reuse, temporary and interim uses for brownfields, and how to prepare for changing demands.

As we evaluate responses to this Call for Ideas, we will look most favorably on sessions that offer insight and training in the following areas:

- The use of artificial intelligence in brownfield redevelopment
- Planning for potential future changes in commercial real estate markets and the effect on brownfields redevelopment
- Commercial office to residential conversion projects – design, cost, and contamination considerations
- How vacant and unused commercial real estate presents economic and social challenges to communities
- Innovative and adaptive reuse strategies available to communities to address challenges associated with underused commercial properties
- Innovative redevelopment of historic and municipal properties such as former schools, hospitals, factories, train stations, and churches
- How to challenge developers and architects to contribute to viable solutions
- Where community leaders can look for urban success stories and examples of economic benefits of redevelopment
- Planning for future land use demands
- Data centers and incorporating power storage and generation into brownfields redevelopment
- Renewable energy in brownfield redevelopments and using IRS “energy community” credits
- Legal implications and concerns with purchasing brownfields and planning for future reuse options
- The advances of interim uses for brownfields and examples of successful interim uses
- Planning for workforce changes and the associated effects on land use demands
- Planning for future public transportation needs

### **Track 4: Community Involvement and Public Participation**

We are looking for sessions that will lead our audience in discussions about engaging and involving the local community in redevelopment and land use decisions, building capacity in low-income, small, and/or rural communities, and transforming brownfields into affordable housing.

As we evaluate responses to this Call for Ideas, we will look most favorably on sessions that offer insight and training in the following areas:

- Working in and with small, rural, and Tribal communities
- Effective public involvement approaches to ensure inclusion of residents impacted by brownfields
- Engaging Tribal communities
- Public engagement practices to solicit real estate, developer, and private equity interest
- Engaging community-based organizations and nonprofits
- Local community capacity building – how to build capacity to address brownfield challenges at the local level
- Experiences, obstacles, and solutions for local governments
- Case studies and examples of overcoming brownfield challenges
- Communications and risk management – how to conduct meaningful and effective public meetings
- Community Benefits Agreement – how to negotiate, including successful examples or case studies
- How to ensure small business inclusions
- Preserving community culture and history
- Low-income tax credits – how to manage to the advantage of the long-time community members
- Creative site ownership solutions (including community land trusts, cooperatives, shared equity agreements, etc.)
- Working with state historic preservation offices
- Policies and best practices for local governments
- How to form partnerships: roles and types of agreements that can be implemented

### **Track 5: Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup Approaches**

If brownfields redevelopment is going to be successful, we need to identify and implement successful engineering and technological solutions to assessing and cleaning up environmental contamination.

As we evaluate responses to this Call for Ideas, we will look most favorably on sessions that offer insight and training in the following areas:

- Advanced, technical training on remediation technologies and standards
- Risk-based remediation in practice
- Managing contaminated media at sites
- Understanding CERCLA liability in brownfields revitalization
- Beyond CERCLA – how other environmental statutes and regulations affect brownfield cleanups including RCRA, TSCA, CWA, CAA – what brownfields property owners and prospective purchasers need to consider
- Understanding and interpreting the results of environmental site assessment

- Brownfields redevelopment at CERCLA sites
- Methods communities can use to evaluate available cleanup alternatives
- Best cleanup alternatives for common contaminants of concern
- Best cleanup approaches for addressing specific types of contamination
- Assessment and cleanup of Tribal brownfields
- Understanding emerging contaminants and how communities address the risks associated with them
- Legal issues around liability protections and emerging contaminants
- New technologies for emerging contaminants
- State PFAS regulations
- Legal implications associated with brownfields assessment and cleanup

## **Track 6: Tribal Brownfield Programs**

Tribal Nations face unique challenges when trying to find resources to address their brownfield sites, such as loss of ownership of lands; reacquiring contaminated lands; staff turnover and capacity; limited resources to invest in and manage brownfield assessment, remediation, and redevelopment activities; and need for consistent funding streams to support program implementation. Partnerships between U.S. EPA, Tribal Nations and other government agencies at the local, state, and federal levels can be formed to ensure effective solutions to brownfield challenges on Tribal lands.

We want to hear from our Tribal partners about their brownfield challenges and needs. We also want to hear from agencies, developers, nonprofits, and other stakeholders who have forged successful partnerships with Tribal Nations to address brownfield cleanup and redevelopment challenges.

As we evaluate responses to this Call for Ideas, we will look most favorably on sessions that offer insight and training in the following areas:

- Unique brownfield challenges faced by Tribal Nations and how they can be addressed
- Establishing and enhancing Tribal Response Programs
- Please share case studies of successful approaches to addressing brownfield challenges on Tribal lands, including partnerships and collaborations that facilitated success
- How brownfields redevelopment solutions can be respectful of Tribal culture and history
- Tribal 128a cleanup success stories
- Incorporating Indigenous Knowledge in brownfield cleanup and redevelopment processes
- Lessons learned from Tribal brownfields redevelopment: best practices, dos and don'ts, and unique approaches

*Are you submitting an idea applicable to Tribal brownfields? Please select the track that is most relevant to your submission. In the development process, your session may be reassigned to another track. Any session applicable to Tribal participants will be differentiated by other means, such as tags, color-coding or the use of an icon on printed materials.*

## Session Formats

The National Brownfields Training Conference features a variety of session formats. Session formats should be reviewed carefully before idea submission. Preferred formats include Town Hall Meetings, Roundtable Discussions, and Lightning Talks.

In addition to the primary educational program, this year we also again seeking ideas for “training workshops”—an opportunity to help our attendees with longer-form, real-world practical skill-building sessions.

Microphones will be available for speakers for all session formats.

Session format descriptions are as follows:

**Town Hall Meeting (60 minutes)** – Lively discussion led by a moderator and a panel of two leaders or experts in a specific topic or area of interest. Speakers *briefly* present a topic for discussion, which is followed by conversation between the panelists and the audience through a moderated Q&A, sharing of experiences, and a forum for voicing challenges and solutions.

Audiovisual technology available.

In addition to what every session must include, proposed Town Hall Meeting sessions must also include a list of questions for discussion.

**Roundtable Discussions (60 minutes)** – A rapid fire, discussion-oriented session format that is led by one or two topic experts. Session leaders quickly present a topic that translates within minutes to a facilitated conversation between and among the audience participants. The room is set with round tables and a podium. No audiovisual technology or formal presentations. The room will be configured to allow for actively engaging the entire audience and/or small group discussions on questions or topics put forth by the session leader(s). **Roundtable sessions should be interactive and hands-on.**

In addition to what every session must include, proposed Roundtable sessions must also include a list of questions for discussion.

**Lightning Talks (25 minutes)** – Lightning talk sessions are short talks on big issues. For each program block, there will be thematically similar sessions grouped consecutively and a “Lightning Talk Lounge” where attendees can gather to ask additional questions on the topics being discussed. Adapted for adult learning, each session is a single 25-minute presentation by one presenter.

Audiovisual technology available.

**Panel Discussions (60 minutes)** – Panel discussions will consist of one moderator and no more than two speakers who are recognized experts in a specific topic, and who generally have different viewpoints or experiences within the specific topic, or present different aspects of the same topic. The moderator will lead the panel discussion and follow-on question and answers.

Sessions must be tailored to encourage and allow for audience interaction. At least 15 minutes of the hour-long session must be devoted to questions and answers.

Audiovisual technology available.

**Training Workshops (Brownfields University) (2–5 hours)** – Training workshops are designed to help participants expand their skills and knowledge in practitioner-oriented adult learning workshops. Presenters must be experts in the presented topic and have demonstrated experience as a trainer or educator. Although some beginner level training sessions will be considered, brownfields stakeholders need practical information on how to implement solutions that go beyond introductory level workshops. When evaluating session proposals for trainings, we will favor training sessions that offer more advanced training opportunities and engage participants in discussions of practical and proven solutions to brownfields challenges.

Audiovisual technology available.