

Cleaning up contaminated lands

Environmental Response Fund (ERF)



Environmental cleanup costs can be a barrier to development

Contaminated lands present risks to the health of our residents, communities and environment. The cost of cleaning up contaminated sites can be prohibitive for developers and businesses looking to invest in our communities, create jobs and grow our economic base.

Providing funding to assess and clean up contaminated lands benefits businesses and communities by spurring economic growth, revitalizing neighborhoods and leveraging private and public investment to protect and preserve our environment.

Environmental Response Fund (ERF)

To help reuse contaminated sites where the added cost of environmental cleanup is a barrier to improvements or redevelopment

Case study: Surly Brewing Co.

Surly Brewing Co. pioneered the booming independent craft beer industry in the Twin Cities. By 2014, Surly needed a new site where they could expand production and create a destination brewery with a beer hall, restaurant, event center and beer garden.

They selected a large vacant industrial site on the border of Minneapolis and St. Paul, near light rail and the University of Minnesota. Funding from Hennepin County's Environmental Response Fund, along with other county, state, and federal contributions, made it possible to remediate the site's significant contamination.



Today, Surly's 50,000 square-foot facility is a national beer destination and valuable community asset.

To date, Hennepin County has awarded 370 ERF grants totaling more than \$51 million, leveraging \$1.7 billion in private development investments.

Who is eligible?

Municipalities, economic development agencies, housing and redevelopment authorities, government entities, non profit organizations, and private for-profit companies

How does it work?

Max individual award: No minimum or maximum

Awarded grants have ranged from \$5,000 to more than \$800,000.

There are two funding cycles per year with applications due May 1 and November 1.

Matching funds are not required.

What can be funded?

Environmental consulting, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) review fees, laboratory, assessment, cleanup plan development, asbestos and lead paint assessment and abatement, some demolition

Learn more and apply

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