

# Brownfields Property Tax Credit

## **Who can apply for the credit?**

The Frederick County Brownfields Tax Credit is available only to properties that have gone through the Maryland Voluntary Cleanup Program and have received formal designation by the Maryland Department of Commerce as a “qualified Brownfields site.”

## **Overview of the Maryland Brownfields Program**

In 1997, the State of Maryland enacted Brownfields legislation (SB 340) to foster the clean-up and redevelopment of sites with real or perceived environmental contamination. The bill had two major components:

1. Established a Voluntary Cleanup Program under the administration of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). The Voluntary Cleanup Program streamlines the environmental cleanup process for sites, usually industrial or commercial properties, that are contaminated, or perceived to be contaminated, by hazardous substances. developers and lenders are provided with certain limitations on liability and participants in the program are provided certainty in the process by knowing exactly what will be required.
2. Established the Brownfields Revitalization Incentive Fund under the direction of the Maryland Department of Commerce to provide financial assistance to innocent purchasers of eligible Brownfields sites in the form of loans and grants from the Department of Commerce and the Brownfields Tax Credit from participating counties or municipalities.

## **Frederick County Brownfields Property Tax Credit**

Frederick County Code 1-8-201 outlines the Brownfields Property Tax Credit. The property tax credit is 50% of the property tax attributable to the increase in the assessment of the qualified Brownfields site, including improvements added to the site during the credit period, over the assessment of the qualified Brownfields site before the voluntary cleanup or corrective action plan. The credit shall apply in each of the 5 taxable years immediately following the first revaluation of the property after completion of a voluntary cleanup or corrective action plan of a qualified Brownfields site. The credit is subject to the requirements and limitations set forth in Md. Code Ann. Tax Property Article §9-229.

## **Eligible Sites**

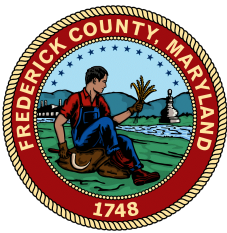
The State Brownfields law states that a property must meet the following criteria to take advantage of Brownfields Revitalization Incentive Fund financial incentives including the Brownfields Tax Credit. The property must be:

- Proposed to be purchased by someone who has not previously owned the site and who is not the party responsible for contamination at the site;
- Contaminated by oil or a hazardous substance;
- A former industrial or commercial site located in a densely populated urban area and substantially underutilized;
- An existing or former industrial or commercial site that poses a threat to public health or the environment; and
- Located in a jurisdiction such as Frederick County that has adopted a local ordinance.

## **Tax Credit Process**

1. Applicant must obtain formal designation from the Maryland Department of Commerce that the property is a “qualified Brownfields site” under the Maryland Brownfields program. For more information on becoming qualified, contact the Department of Commerce.
2. Applicant must work with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and receive a Voluntary Cleanup Acceptance letter. The applicant must then receive a Certificate of Completion from MDE when the cleanup is done.
3. Applicant must complete this application form and submit it to: Treasurer of Frederick County  
30 N. Market Street  
Frederick, MD 21701

The Treasurer will review the application and, if approved, will take the necessary steps to incorporate the tax credit into the next appropriate tax bill for the property.



Department of Treasury  
30 N. Market Street  
Frederick, MD 21701

301-600-1111  
treasuryquestions@frederickcountymd.gov

### APPLICATION FOR BROWNFIELDS PROPERTY TAX CREDIT

In accordance with the provisions of Frederick County Code 1-8-201 and Md. Code Ann. Tax-Property §9-229, an owner of a qualified Brownfields site may receive a County property tax credit in an amount equal to 50 percent of the property tax attributable to the increase in the assessment of the qualified Brownfields site.

The application shall be filed annually and received not later than April 1 prior to the taxable year for which the credit is requested to begin.

Date of Application \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Year/Period \_\_\_\_\_

Property Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Information \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach copies of the following:

- Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Voluntary Cleanup Acceptance Letter
- MDE Certification of Completion
- Maryland Department of Commerce letter stating the site is a qualified Brownfields site
- Notice of Revaluation from the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT).

I, the applicant, hereby certify that I am entitled to the tax credit for the property described above. Further, I declare under the penalties of perjury that all information above is true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Do Not Write Below This Line)

Assessment \_\_\_\_\_ County Tax \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Credit \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Disapproved: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_