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**OER Named Finalist for 2015 Harvard Excellence in  
Government Award**

The Harvard Kennedy School's Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation announced on May 5, 2015 that the NYC Mayor's Office of Environmental Remediation (OER) was selected as one of five finalists in the 2015 Harvard Innovations in American Government Award for the Voluntary Cleanup Program and associated programs for revitalization of vacant land in low income communities were and will receive a grant to help replicate these programs in other U.S. cities. OER and the other finalists presented to Harvard's National Selection Committee in Cambridge, Massachusetts on May 20. The winner will be announced this fall.

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**2015 Big Apple Brownfield Awards Honors Shaminder  
Chawla for 30 Years of Service**

The New York City Brownfield Partnership honored OER's Deputy Director Shaminder Chawla for 30 years of exemplary service overseeing environmental remediation in

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NYC. Over 200 attendees included developers, consultants, and attorneys as well as representatives from the non-profit and government sectors. The Partnership also recognized DEC and Bureau Chief Bob Cozzy and Regional Chief Jane O’Connell. Other awards recognized six exceptional New York City redevelopment projects, the 2015 Abbey Duncan Brownfield Scholars and this year’s Brownfield Interns. The keynote address was delivered by NYC Councilmember Donovan Richards, chair of the Committee on Environmental Protection.



**OER Announces Launch of Brownfield Jumpstart Program for Affordable Housing and Industrial Projects**

On June 30, 2015, OER Director Daniel Walsh announced the launch of the NYC Brownfield Jumpstart program to assist cleanup on government-supported affordable and supportive housing projects in NYC. Under this program OER will provide up to \$250,000 in grant funding for environmental investigation and cleanup and will also sponsor enrollment in the NYS Brownfield Cleanup Program. For more information, contact OER Director Daniel Walsh at 212-676-0386 or [dwalsh@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:dwalsh@cityhall.nyc.gov).

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**Sites in the NYC VCP**



**NYC Voluntary Cleanup Program Enrolls 300th Cleanup Project**

In June 2015, OER enrolled the 300th project in the NYC Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP). This milestone was achieved after only four years of operation. Collectively these projects will provide for the cleanup and revitalization of almost 800 tax lots that have been vacant an average of over 10 years. Sixty-seven of these projects will provide over

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4,600 new units of affordable or supportive housing for New Yorkers. Overall, these projects will result in over \$9 billion in new private investment and over 5,000 permanent jobs. For more information on the NYC Voluntary Cleanup Program, contact OER Director Daniel Walsh at 212-676-0386, or [dwalsh@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:dwalsh@cityhall.nyc.gov) .

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### **NYC Clean Soil Bank Assists Wetland Reclamation by Providing Clean Native Soil**

Since its launch in 2014, the NYC Clean Soil Bank, operated by the NYC Mayor's Office of Environmental Remediation (OER), has been providing clean native soil for new development projects around the city. In May 2015, OER oversaw the successful NYC Clean Soil Bank transfer of 1,000 cubic yards of clean glacial outwash sand from a development project in Brooklyn to a wetland restoration project in Flushing, Queens. The soil was used in a bioswale wetland to treat highway and parking lot runoff before it infiltrates Meadow Lake. For more information about the NYC Clean Soil Bank, please contact Samantha Morris at 212-341-2082 or [smorris@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:smorris@dep.nyc.gov).



### **Hazardous Waste Fee Waiver Program Facilitates the Cleanup of 25 Brownfield Sites**

Since its launch last year, 25 sites have enrolled to benefit from OER's Hazardous Waste Disposal Fee Waiver program. The waiver encourages removal of hazardous waste by providing an exemption for New York State hazardous waste disposal fees and taxes. More than 8,800 tons of hazardous soil are expected to be remediated at these 25 sites. For more information, contact Shana Holberton at 212-788-

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3220, or [sholberton@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:sholberton@dep.nyc.gov) .

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### **OER Launches Pilot for Program to Study Cleanup of Community Gardens**

A pilot program is under way to study the use of clean native soil from the NYC Clean Soil Bank to clean up community gardens in NYC. The program seeks to achieve the highest quality standards possible for soil in community gardens. Initial results are extremely promising, and show high reductions of concentrations of metals such as lead and arsenic in garden soil. The study was initiated by OER and is a joint venture with the NYC Parks Department and Brooklyn College. Special thanks to York Laboratory, which has provided pro bono analytic services for the pilot program. For more information, contact Alysha Alfieri at 212-676-0459, or [aalfieri@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:aalfieri@dep.nyc.gov).



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### **NYS Brownfield Cleanup Program Participants Now Eligible to Receive NYC Green Property Certification**

Participants in the New York State Brownfield Cleanup Program, including all completed projects in NYC since 2003, are now eligible to receive NYC Green Property Certification. This certification, issued by the Mayor's Office, symbolizes the City's confidence that the property and its buildings are among the safest places in New York City to live and work. Certification was formerly only available to properties in the NYC Voluntary Cleanup Program. Properties that receive certification are eligible to receive a free building foundation plaque engraved with the NYC Green Property Certification seal. If you have completed a NYS Brownfield Cleanup, please contact Eric Ilijevich for more details at 212-341-2034

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or [eiljevich@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:eiljevich@dep.nyc.gov).

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### **National Brownfields Conference to be Held in Chicago**

Save the dates of September 2-4, 2015 for the next National Brownfields Conference, which will be held in Chicago from September 2-4, 2015. To register, visit the Brownfields Conference [website](#). At the conference, in addition to the educational program, there will be mobile workshops, networking events, film and documentary viewings and a poster gallery showcasing innovative work and research being performed in the brownfields community.

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For questions, comments, or to be removed from our mailing list, contact us at: [brownfields@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:brownfields@cityhall.nyc.gov).

Office of Environmental Remediation  
100 Gold Street, 2nd Floor  
New York, NY 10038