I. Brownfields in Idaho

A Brownfield site is a vacant or underutilized property where redevelopment or reuse is complicated by actual or perceived environmental contamination.

The Brownfields Program helps the community from an environmental and economic standpoint.

Remediating land that contains environmental contaminants and toxins that are potentially harmful to our local environmental health creates a safer community.

Redevelopment of brownfields sites improves community health, increases property values, revitalizes community neighborhoods, boosts infill development, all while creating jobs.

II. Our Project

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) Brownfields Program records return on investment (ROI) data on properties that have undergone assessment and redevelopment. The information is collected and analyzed in order to better influence future developments.

A survey instrument was redesigned and reformatted, and the new survey was benchmarked with the help of three local developers who had previously utilized the Brownfields Program.

The information gathered has supported the Brownfields Program in providing detailed success stories to better influence future developers to participate in the program while also giving the chance for the program to receive more funding.

III. Methods

- Research conducted on Brownfields Program sites and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality to better understand the program, how it works, and those who utilize it
- Redesigned and reformatted an original survey document that was used to collect ROI data from users of the Brownfields program
- Networked with local professionals who have used the original survey to gather information on how it may be improved
- Collected ROI data from 3 local developers who have previously participated in the Brownfields program
- Distributed our version of the survey to local developers in order to add to the list of success stories

IV. Results

- A new method of obtaining ROI data from Brownfields Program sites has been implemented
- The improved survey format is more user friendly and easier to distribute
- Improvements on the quality of ROI data that is collected to describe Brownfields Program success stories
- Increased data from success stories for the Brownfields Program

V. Conclusions

Sensitive economic information is required from participants to show how funding leveraged by the Brownfields Program helps encourage local developments.

We hope that by creating a new survey, we have aided in improving quality of data describing success stories that will eventually increase the number of participants in the Brownfields Program.