



BROWNFIELD CHAMPION MERIT BADGES – PROGRAM GUIDE

VIRGINIA BROWNFIELDS CONFERENCE
JUNE 8-10, 2026
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA

Welcome to the 2026 Virginia Brownfields Conference. Please join us in making the conference fun by earning merit badges along the way. We hope this helps you make new connections and learn new things.

Communities thrive when individuals step forward to transform Brownfield challenges into opportunities. The **Brownfield Champion Merit Badge Program** celebrates participants who build knowledge, skills, and leadership in Brownfields redevelopment.

Throughout the conference, you can earn badges by attending sessions, engaging with experts, participating in workshops, and contributing to the community. As you collect badges, you advance through five achievement levels ultimately becoming a **Master Brownfield Champion**.

How to Receive Your Badges

After attending a qualifying session or completing an activity, stop by the registration desk or the session moderator to collect your badge.

Display them proudly on your lanyard, backpack strap, or anywhere you like.

Core Badge Categories

1. Brownfield Basics

Start with foundational knowledge. Learn about tools, resources, and processes that support Brownfield identification, prioritization, and decision-making.

2. Technical Aspects of Environmental Assessment

Dive into the science behind site investigations, explore updates from DEQ's VRP, and learn about emerging contaminants and innovative technologies.

3. Reuse and Redevelopment Planning

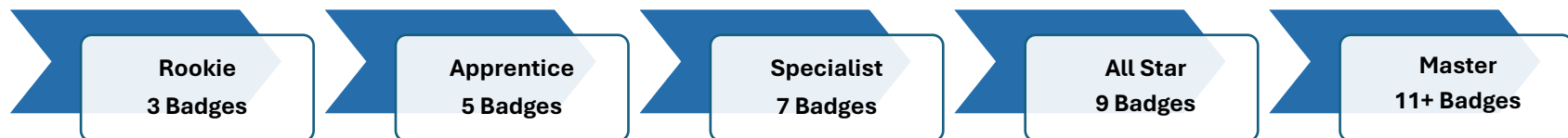
Participate in sessions on land-use planning, community engagement, and the steps required to turn environmental challenges into redevelopment opportunities.

4. Other Specialized Skills

Earn badges based on your role, participation in mobile workshops, or involvement in specialized sessions.

Recognition and Promotion

To recognize growth and mastery, earning badges allows you to advance through five levels of accomplishment. Brownfield Champions will be recognized during lunch on Wednesday at the end of the conference.





Brownfields Supporter

Thanks for being here. You've earned your first badge!



Brownfield Basics

Participate in any of the following sessions:

- Brownfields 101
- Bring Your Own Brownfield (BYOB)
- City of Staunton Brownfield Highlights



Brownfields Site and Community Planning

Participate in any of the following sessions:

- Transforming the 1st Street Corridor Through Brownfield Redevelopment
- Leveraging your Land: Brownfields as a Tool for Redevelopment & Revitalization
- School's Out! What's Next? Redeveloping Old School Sites
- Legal Toolkit for Brownfields Redevelopment



Found It

Participate in any of the following sessions that discuss site-specific Brownfield projects:

- VRP Spotlight – Former CSX Metal Recyclers
- Derelict Dry Cleaner to Vibrant Multi-Use Redevelopment in Lynchburg
- From Abandoned Tobacco Warehouse to Vibrant Urban Hub for Healing
- Mary E. Branch School Redevelopment



Sightseer




For participants to go on the Walking Tour.



Computer Wiz

Participate in any of the following sessions that touch on the digital aspects of Brownfields work:

- Modernizing BF Redevelopment: The Role of AI in Environmental Studies
- Digital Site Visit – Brownfields Reimagined
- GIS as a Tool for Brownfields Planning and Virginia DEQ DiRT Update

	<p style="text-align: center;">Sunny Days and Greener Pastures</p>	<p>Participate in any of the following sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brownfields Reimagined: Where Sustainability, Clean Energy, and Community Resilience Meet • Tough Ground: Reforesting Formerly Mined Land with the Voluntary Carbon Market • Turning Brownfields into Brightfields: Challenges, Opportunities, and Resources • Solar Development in Appalachian Brownfields • Brownfields Restoration to Advance Habitat, Resilience, and Water Quality Goals
	<p style="text-align: center;">Social Bee</p>	<p>Make a connection with a sponsor and they can give you a badge.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Technical Talker</p>	<p>Participate in the sessions that discuss some of the more technical aspects of Brownfields:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competent Rock is Complex Rock: Rethinking Remediation in Fractured Bedrock • Beyond the Barrier – Selecting the Right VI Mitigation Approach • PFAS State of the Union: Regulatory and Analytical Updates • DEQ Updates and VRP Managers Q&A • Beneath the Surface: Water and Methane Resources to Fugitive Methane Capture & Utilization in VA Coalfields



Show Me the Money

Participate in sessions that touch on funding and financing your Brownfield project:

- Show Me the (Brownfields) Money!
- Beyond Assessment: Leveraging Virginia DHCD and Tobacco Commission Funding for Brownfields Redevelopment
- Redeveloping Brownfields to Address Virginia's Housing Needs
- Leveraging Funding for Brownfields & Community Revitalization in a New Era



Project Kickstarter

Earned by anyone who has received any of the following:

- An EPA Brownfields Grant (MARC, Job Training, Land Revitalization Technical Assistance, Targeted Brownfields Assessment).
- Virginia Brownfields Restoration and Economic Redevelopment Fund (VBAF).
- Development stage funding on a Brownfield site or community-wide grant addressing Brownfields such as ARC, IRF, CDBG, Tobacco Commission, etc.

Can also be earned if you are invited to the EPA Grantee Meeting.



Creative Thinker

We couldn't think of everything. Come to us with a topic, idea, or project success story that makes you a Brownfield Champion.



Mascot Friend

Take a selfie with Andy (VA) or Bucky (WVA) to earn this badge. See someone at the registration desk to receive your badge.



Networking

Welcome Reception: Queen City Bistro
Monday, June 8, 2026
4:30-6:30

Networking Social: Ciders from Mars
Tuesday, June 9, 2026
5:30-7:30



Subject Matter Expert

Are you a speaker at this year's conference? You just earned a badge!



Show Off

Available to:

- Sponsors
- Exhibitors
- Poster Presenters