

# TABS COLLABORATE TO CONDUCT NATIONAL OUTREACH AND BROWNFIELDS EDUCATION AT THE NADO ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA  
OCTOBER 25TH-26TH, 2015

On October 25th and 26th, Kansas State University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, and the Center for Creative Land Recycling provided two workshops at the Annual Training Conference of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO). NADO represents regional development organizations from across the United States, most of whom serve small, rural, underresourced communities. NADO therefore provides a national platform for rural brownfields outreach. The ability to connect with so many rural leaders in one place was exciting and helpful to all TABs.

## October 25th workshop and tour

25+ people braved the rain and joined all three TABs for an all-day workshop and tour of significant New Orleans brownfields sites on Sunday, October 25th. The collaborative workshop walked participants through the brownfields redevelopment process and available resources, after which participants broke out by region to join their TAB provider for Q&A sessions focused on specific sites and ARC grant applications.

The mobile tour visited five sites in various stages of redevelopment. Stops included a redeveloped portion of Mercy Hospital, once flooded by Hurricane Katrina and now an innovatively designed senior living facility, and the New Orleans Bioinnovation Center, a former gas station and dry cleaner that is now a state-of-the-art laboratory facility and biotech business incubator.

New Orleans Regional Planning Commission Brownfields Program Coordinator Rebecca Otte provided engaging narration for the tour, providing an in-depth local perspective on specific sites and on the city's brownfields trajectory in the decade following Hurricane Katrina.

1. Z Smith explains some of NOBIC's green features. An additional 600,000 of investment took the building from code minimum to LEED Gold, with a payback period of three years.



## October 26th conference session

The TABs' October 26th session drew 50+ attendees. TABs engaged the audience with covering the brownfields redevelopment process and available federal funding (with special emphasis on EPA ARC grants), and Rebecca Otte of the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission presented several case studies of brownfields redevelopment in New Orleans.

**Both sessions received overwhelmingly positive reviews, and NADO was a highly supportive partner. Because NADO's Annual Training Conference has not offered brownfields training for several years, TAB contributions were greeted with great interest and enthusiasm, and we are continuing to follow up with communities who connected with us at the conference.**



2. View of permeable pavement and water features at NOBIC. These features serve as a sink for excess rain water, allowing water to permeate back into the soil instead of entering the stormwater drainage system.

3. Rebecca Otte explains how a former wing of flooded, condemned, and asbestos-contaminated Mercy Hospital became a state-of-the-art nursing home, now called St. Margaret's at Mercy. St. Margaret's is designed to maximize residents' social interaction, and has special units to house residents diagnosed with ALS. These residents can use their eyes to control features within the apartment like doors, windows and blinds.

4. Architect Z Smith greets the tour at the New Orleans Bio Innovation Center (NOBIC), explaining the history of the site and its redevelopment.



5. View through the bus window of Falstaff Apartments, formerly Falstaff Brewery. The 165 units opened in 2008, and at least 74 of the units are available to residents making 60% or less of Area Median Income.

6. Sarah Sieloff (CCLR), Oral Saulters (KSU), Rebecca Otte (NOLA RPC), and Elizabeth Limbrick (NJIT) at the October 26th session.

