

Regional Environmental Council, Inc.

Community Involvement Plan (CIP)

47 Oread Street Brownfields Cleanup Project

Worcester, Massachusetts

Updated for ABCA & QAPP dated November 14, 2025

December 2025

1. Purpose

This Community Involvement Plan (CIP) describes how the Regional Environmental Council, Inc. (REC) will inform and involve the public regarding the planned cleanup of lead-contaminated soils and debris at 47 Oread Street, Worcester, Massachusetts, and the use of the property for a new greenhouse supporting REC's YouthGROW program and food access programs.

This CIP updates and supersedes REC's prior Community Involvement Plan for 47 Oread Street. The public notice published in the Telegram & Gazette for the current comment period did not explicitly state that it supersedes the prior CIP; however, this updated CIP is intended to govern the current ABCA/QAPP and associated public involvement activities.

2. Project Background and Goal

The City of Worcester is planning to apply U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) resources to remediate soil impacted by a release of oil and/or hazardous materials (OHM) at the property at 47 Oread Street. OHM in soil includes lead, arsenic, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and tetrachloroethylene (PCE).

Project goal: complete an environmental cleanup that supports redevelopment of the property for use as an agricultural greenhouse as part of REC's YouthGROW project.

3. Cleanup Approach (Public Summary)

Cleanup planning is documented in the Draft Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA) dated November 14, 2025 and the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) dated November 14, 2025 (and associated plans and approvals).

The ABCA recommends Alternative #2: Targeted Soil Removal and Encapsulation, Offsite Disposal, and implementation of an Activity and Use Limitation (AUL). If confirmatory soil sampling demonstrates that remaining concentrations are below applicable Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP) Method 1 soil standards, capping and an AUL may not be required.

4. Community Profile and Stakeholders

Stakeholders include nearby residents, neighbors, YouthGROW participants and families, nearby property owners and tenants, community organizations, and City of Worcester departments. REC will communicate in plain language and will provide language assistance and accommodations upon request.

5. Public Notice and Comment Period

REC established the following public comment period, consistent with the notice published in the Telegram & Gazette:

- Comment Period: December 18, 2025 through January 16, 2026 (30 days).
- Deadline: Comments must be received by 5:00 PM on January 16, 2026.

Submit comments by email to comments@recworchester.org or by mail to Regional Environmental Council, Inc., P.O. Box 255, Worcester, MA 01613.

All significant comments will receive written responses added to the project record.

6. Public Meeting

REC will host a public meeting during the public comment period:

- Wednesday, January 7, 2026 at 5:30 PM
- REC Office, 42 Lagrange St, Rear, Worcester, MA 01610

The meeting will include project information and an opportunity to provide public comment. Written comments may also be submitted at the meeting.

7. Access to Documents (Information Repository and Website)

Documents (including the Draft ABCA and related files) are available for review at REC, 42 Lagrange St, Rear, Worcester, MA (Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM, or by appointment) and online at www.recworchester.org/47oreadcleanup.

8. Language Assistance and Accommodations

To request accommodations or language assistance, please contact Steve Fischer.

- Phone: (508) 799-9139
- Email: comments@recworchester.org

9. Key Contacts

REC / Public Contact:

- Steve Fischer, Executive Director, REC; (508) 799-9139 (x106); steve@recworchester.org

Regulatory / Program Contacts (as listed in the QAPP):

- U.S. EPA Region 1: Anthony Pepe, (617) 918-8379, pepe.anthony@epa.gov
- MassDEP Brownfields: David Foss, (774) 991-5996, david.foss@state.ma.us
- City of Worcester: Paul Morano, (508) 799-1400 x31408, moranop@worcesterma.gov