

Reclaim Our Water

Nitrogen pollution from cesspools and septic systems has been identified as the largest single cause of degraded water quality contributing to harmful algal blooms, shellfishing restrictions, poor water clarity, and massive fish kills. When nitrogen reaches surface waters it contributes to degradation of our marshes, bays, and beaches.

Conventional onsite septic systems and cesspools were never designed to remove nitrogen. Thousands of parcels are currently served by polluting cesspools and septic systems, but will never connect to a sewer system due to funding constraints. Reversing degradation of water quality will depend on replacement of 360,000 existing systems with **I/A OWTS**.



Nitrogen is public water enemy #1

Water quality is our #1 priority



www.ReclaimOurWater.info

If you are interested in participating in the program, please submit an application online at the above website.

Contact us at:

septicdemo@suffolkcountyny.gov

Call 631-852-5811

Reclaim Our Water

Suffolk County Septic Improvement Program

"People understand the importance of reversing the decades of decline that we have seen in our water quality"



AFFORDABLE GRANT PROGRAM



Suffolk County Executive
Steve Bellone

Innovative / Alternative Onsite
Wastewater Treatment Systems are
the Solution to Nitrogen Pollution

Reclaim Our Water

Suffolk County has launched the **Reclaim Our Water** initiative to regulate and promote the use of Innovative and Alternative Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (I/A OWTS) to ensure these advanced wastewater treatment systems continue to remove greater than 70% of the nitrogen in our wastewater.

To make the cost of I/A systems more affordable for homeowners, Suffolk County has developed the Septic Improvement Program (SIP). Under the SIP, homeowners who decide to replace their cesspool or septic system with the new I/A OWTS technologies may be eligible for grants from New York State and Suffolk County toward the purchase and installation of a nitrogen removal septic system and leaching structure. This funding enables homeowners to replace aging and failing cesspools with state-of-the-art technologies that significantly improve treatment, extend system life, and enhance safety.

Grant Funding:

- Suffolk County Septic Improvement Program
 - ❖ \$10,000 Grant
 - ❖ \$5,000 for Eligible Low to Moderate Income Applicants
 - ❖ \$5,000 when a Pressurized Shallow Drainfield is required
- New York State Septic System Replacement Program
 - ❖ Up to \$10,000 Grant

General Use Approval Technologies

- Hydro-Action
- FujiClean

Provisional Use Approval Technologies

- SeptiTech STAAR
- Orenco Advantex AX-20
- Norweco Hydro-Kinetic
- Norweco Singulair TNT
- Lined Nitrogen Reducing Biofilter

Ongoing Costs:

Annual Operation & Maintenance

After the first 3 years included in the installation, the homeowner will be responsible for O&M costs of approximately \$250-\$500 per year.

Annual Electrical Costs

I/A OWTS systems run either continuously or on-demand, and electric costs range from \$74 - \$228 per year.

Grant Eligibility Criteria:

- ✓ Homeowners may be eligible for a grant of up to \$20,000 from the Suffolk County SIP Grant *and* up to \$10,000 from the NYS SSRP Grant.
- ✓ Grant recipient is responsible for design costs.
- ✓ Eligible properties include: residential lots owned by a person, firm, partnership, corporation, trust, trustee, association, company or other legal entity capable of owning an interest in real property, be leased, rental, seasonal, single- and two-family, and accessory apartments.
- ✓ Property must not have open property tax liens or foreclosures.
- ✓ The residence must be served by a septic system or cesspool and is not connected to a public sewer or located in a sewer district.
- ✓ New construction on vacant lot is not eligible; however, construction projects on existing residences may be eligible.
- ✓ Availability of valid Certificate of Occupancy (CO) or Certificate of Zoning Compliance for the residence.
- ✓ If applicable, proof of sanitary system failure (photos, services receipts, etc.) must be submitted with the application.
- ✓ Homeowners must select a contractor from the County's approved list.