Water is the most significant resource for which Suffolk County bears responsibility. Nitrogen pollution from cesspools and septic systems has been identified as the single largest cause of degraded water quality contributing to beach closures, restrictions on shellfishing, toxic algae blooms, and massive fish kills.

A conventional onsite septic system was never designed to remove nitrogen. Remediating degraded water quality will depend on replacing 360,000 existing non-performing systems with Innovative and Alternative Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (I/A OWTS).

For more information go to www.ReclaimOurWater.info

Call 631-852-5811

Nitrogen is public water enemy #1

Water quality is our #1 priority
Provisionally Approved Technologies

Hydro-Action AN Series

Norweco Singulair TNT

Norweco Hydro-Kinetic

Orenco Advantex AX20-RT

FujiClean

SeptiTech STAAR

Grant Eligibility Criteria:

- Property owners eligible for a grant up to $20,000.
- Grant recipient responsible for design costs.
- Eligible properties include: those owned by a person, firm, partnership, corporation, trust, trustee, association, company or other legal entity capable of owning an interest in real property, leased, rental, seasonal, multifamily, accessory apartments, and residential properties with in-home businesses.
- Property does not have open property tax liens.
- The residence must be served by a septic system or cesspool and is not connected to a public sewer or located in any sewer district.
- New construction 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.

Ongoing Costs:

- $300 for annual Operation & Maintenance
  After the first 3 years, the homeowner will be responsible for O&M costs of approximately $300 per year.
- $57-$179 for annual electrical costs
  Provisionally approved systems run either continuously or on-demand, and electric costs range from $57-$179 per year.

Antiquated cesspools and conventional septic systems separate solids from the liquids which then either leach into surrounding soils or are discharged via a leaching pool. Both systems were never designed to treat nutrients such as nitrogen, pharmaceuticals, and volatile organic compounds.

Innovative and Alternative Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (I/A OWTS) significantly reduce nitrogen and, in many instances, reduce levels of other contaminants. I/A OWTS can provide greater reliability and greatly reduce the number of pump outs that many homes currently require.

These systems use various methods to provide aerobic bacteria to convert organic nitrogen to nitrite and nitrate and then use an anaerobic (without oxygen) environment to denitrify by stripping the oxygen molecule off of the nitrate nitrogen, resulting in the release of gaseous nitrogen into our atmosphere.

I/A OWTS can be more cost effective than conventional systems on lots with significant site constraints such as high groundwater, poor soils, small restrictive lot size, and coastal area. In some jurisdictions, I/A systems are said to increase property value.