The Peconic Estuary Partnership (PEP) is providing a unique opportunity for those that live within the Peconic Estuary watershed. The PEP will provide financial rewards for homeowners who remove turf and pavements, and add green alternatives to their properties that benefit the environment. One project is allowed per homeowner/property address.

Homeowners can earn up to $500 to offset the expense of installing green infrastructure on their properties including rain barrels, rain gardens and native plant gardens. Stormwater filtered through the soil, sand and gravel within these gardens is dramatically cleaner when it enters our groundwater, nearby bodies of water, and storm drains. Rain barrels collect rainwater from roof runoff that can be reused in gardens, reducing the amount of water flowing over paved surfaces and into storm drains and nearby bodies of water.

This is a great opportunity to make a positive impact for your local estuary and all its amazing bays. While improving your property, you are reducing pollution from entering local waters. Funds are limited and will be granted on a first come first served basis, so don't miss out! Visit PeconicEstuary.org
Land use is directly tied to the health of our bays!

*Benefits of the program to our marine ecosystems*

**Nutrients and Chemicals**

Virtually everything that enters a stormwater drain in the Peconic Estuary watershed empties directly into the bays. Natural and human-made pollutants – like motor oils, fertilizers, pesticides, sediment, animal waste and garbage – can be collected and carried by stormwater runoff into nearby waterbodies and can be harmful to marine life.

Harmful algal blooms, restricted shellfish harvest and marine life die-offs have been linked to an excess of nutrients and other harmful chemicals in the Peconic Bay.

**Habitat and Natural Resources**

Clean water promotes a bountiful habitat for fish and shellfish. Ninety percent of our local fisheries depend on estuaries for a diverse number of commercially and recreationally important marine species. Improving water quality in the Peconic Bay is everyone’s responsibility and benefits all throughout the east end. Additionally, by using native plants (naturally adapted to the region, low maintenance and do not require fertilizer) you are promoting a healthy natural ecosystem and providing essential habitat to local butterflies, birds and bees. Healthy ecosystems and enhanced natural resources beautify communities and create healthy local economies benefiting business, tourism and the fishing industry.

**Details and How to Apply**

*For more information please visit PeconicEstuary.org*

- #1 Submit the attached application
- #2 Upon approval, construct your project
- #3 Submit project for final approval
- #4 Receive your rebate check up to $500

Residents of Brookhaven, East Hampton, Riverhead, Shelter Island, Southampton, and Southold Townships who live within the Peconic Estuary watershed are eligible. Please contact the PEP staff office for further information. PeconicEstuary.org

**Guidelines**

**Natural Vegetation and Rain Garden Installation:** Replace pavement, turf grass, or lawn with native or “native compatible” plant species only. Minimum size of garden: 50 square feet. Maximum rebate per garden installation: $500 for soil mulch and native plants only. Receipts must be provided.

[http://www.raingardennetwork.com/build.htm](http://www.raingardennetwork.com/build.htm)


**Rain Barrel Installation:** Install based on manufacturers guidelines or follow DIY instructions. Mosquito netting must be included. Use appropriate mosquito protection attached to top of rain barrel. Minimum size: 50 gallons. Maximum rebate per barrel: $100/barrel or at cost


**Rewards@peconicestuary.org OR**

**Peconic Estuary Partnership**

**Riverhead County Center**

300 Center Drive, Suite 204N, Riverhead 11901 * 631-852-5806
Basic Information
Name:
Project Address:
Mailing Address (if different):
Phone:
Email:
Building Type (e.g. single family residential):

Specific Project Description (Please provide all information requested below for each project you are proposing.) For more information please visit PeconicEstuary.org

1. Native Plant and/or Rain Garden Installation:
Dimensions:
Describe location of project (e.g. back of house on east corner):
Estimated cost:

2. Rain Barrel Installation:
Size of rain barrel:
Location to be connected:
Number of rain barrels:
Estimated cost:

Project Cost (Estimate)
Total Estimated Cost:
Rebate Requested:
Rewards are available up to the maximum allowable, or the total cost per project, whichever is lower.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example Project</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Unit Cost</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Allowable</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example: Raingarden (50 sq. ft.)</td>
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<td>Example: Rain Barrel (50 gl.)</td>
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<td>Totals</td>
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</table>
Please provide a list of native plants for the proposed project here if applicable.

In completing this application, have you included:

- __ Project Description
- __ List of native plants being used for Natural Vegetation and/or Rain garden projects
- __ Signed and read disclaimer

Disclaimer:
Peconic Estuary Partnership and its partners are not responsible for the future of the project, or any problems associated with the project. If an application is approved, the rebate will be dependent upon approval of receipts and invoices for appropriate supplies/equipment only. **One check will be issued per individual and property address.** Please allow 4-6 weeks after final project approval for reimbursement. The applicant is responsible for ensuring that all projects meet all code requirements. By signing this application, you are verifying the accuracy of all above information, and asserting that you own the property or have permission from the property owner, and are confirming that you were not mandated to complete this project. You are providing your permission for the Peconic Estuary Partnership and it’s partners to use photos of your property in relevant publications. You are also providing permission for a staff member to visit the property to physically observe the project site for documentation purposes. Your signature below also states that you will maintain the project for as long as possible and avoid the use of pesticides and fertilizer. Your willingness to keep a small PEP sign visible on your property throughout the next spring/summer/fall season is appreciated. By signing below, you are acknowledging the above disclaimer.

Please sign and date here:

X _________________________________________________________ Date ________________

Please send completed application to rewards@peconicestuary.org or Peconic Estuary Partnership,
Riverhead County Center
300 Center Drive, Suite 204N, Riverhead NY 11901
631-852-5806