

Reclaim Our Water

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).



Nitrogen is public water enemy #1

Water quality is our #1 priority



For more information go to
www.ReclaimOurWater.info

If you are interested in participating in the program, please send an email to
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 / LOAN FUNDING



Suffolk County Executive
Steve Bellone

What are the benefits of innovative /alternative Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems?

Reclaim Our Water

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.

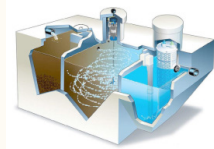
I/A OWTS can be more cost effective than conventional systems on lots with significant site constraints such as high groundwater, poor soils, small restrictive lot size, and coastal area. In some jurisdictions, I/A systems are said to increase property value.

Provisionally Approved Technologies

Hydro-Action AN Series



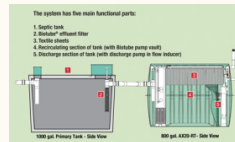
Norweco Singular TNT



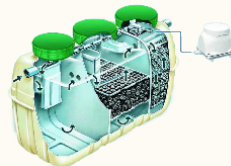
Norweco Hydro-Kinetic



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.