



# The Long Island Water Quality Challenge

***A STEM competition invites middle schoolers to join the effort to tackle nitrogen pollution***

On Long Island, excess nitrogen from aging septic systems, fertilizer and stormwater runoff, and other sources has degraded ground and surface waters. For this STEM competition, students will be asked to design projects to reduce nitrogen pollution on their school grounds. STEM teams can choose from one of two categories:

- **Low Input Landscaping:** Design a landscape – including plant varieties – that will help to reduce the use of fertilizers, pesticides and irrigation on school grounds.
- **Stormwater Treatment:** Design ways to collect and/or treat runoff on school grounds to help reduce pollution.

Student team submissions will be evaluated for innovation, quality of ideas, visual design, technical merit, digital and oral presentation, and team collaboration. There will be a final competition and awards ceremony where the top projects and teams will be honored.

**Who is Eligible?** Any state accredited school in Nassau or Suffolk serving students in grades 6, 7 and 8. Schools may submit up to two teams of any size.

**What are the Deadlines?** A Letter of Interest is due on April 5, 2019 and can be submitted through the LIRPC site (see link below) or by email (see address below). The project will kick off in Fall, 2019.

**Where Do We Get More Information?** Go to [www.lirpc.org](http://www.lirpc.org), email [info@lirpc.org](mailto:info@lirpc.org), or call 516-571-7613.

*The STEM Challenge was created by the Long Island Regional Planning Council, which along with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Nassau and Suffolk Counties, is implementing the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan, or LINAP. LINAP is a multi-faceted, multi-year effort to reduce the amount of nitrogen entering Long Island ground and surface waters.*



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