



## LONG ISLAND NITROGEN ACTION PLAN

# Long Island Water Quality Challenge 2023-2024

### ***A STEM competition inviting middle and high school students to join the effort to tackle nitrogen pollution and improve water quality***

On Long Island, excess nitrogen has degraded our surface waters and groundwater. The main sources of this pollution are aging septic systems, fertilizer, and stormwater runoff.

To participate in this challenge, the Long Island Water Quality STEM Challenge encourages student teams to create a Green Infrastructure project to reduce nitrogen on school grounds.

Green Infrastructure project examples include rain gardens and planter boxes, green roofs, permeable pavement, rainwater harvesting, and bioswales. Student teams can either build off an existing idea OR create a completely new concept.

A panel of experts will evaluate student team submissions on originality, innovation, quality of ideas, visual design, technical merit, and collaboration.

Top projects and teams may be honored at an awards ceremony.

#### **Who Is Eligible?**

Any state accredited school in Nassau or Suffolk counties serving students from grades 6-12.

#### **What Are the Deadlines?**

Letters of Interest due on November 13, 2023

Proposals are due on February 2, 2024

#### **Where Do We Get More Information?**

Go to [lirpc.org](http://lirpc.org), email Rachel Titus at [rtitus@lirpc.org](mailto:rtitus@lirpc.org), or call 516-571-7613.

The Challenge was created by the Long Island Regional Planning Council ([LIRPC](http://LIRPC)), which along with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation ([DEC](http://DEC)) and Nassau and Suffolk Counties, is implementing the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan ([LINAP](http://LINAP)). LINAP is a multi-faceted, multi-year effort to reduce the amount of nitrogen entering Long Island's groundwater and surface waters.