



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan ([LINAP](#))?

Nitrogen pollution has been found to be the leading cause of water quality deterioration in Long Island's groundwater and surface waters.

The Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP) is a multi-year initiative to reduce nitrogen in Long Island's surface and groundwaters through technical, management, regulatory and policy action. A broad partnership is working together to develop and put into effect the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan – the partnership includes the [New York State Department of Environmental Conservation](#), the [Long Island Regional Planning Council](#), [Suffolk](#) and [Nassau](#) counties, local governments, area scientists, numerous environmental groups, non-governmental organizations, and a team of consultant services.

How does the Long Island Water Quality Challenge support the LINAP initiative?

The focus of the competition is on the role that Green Infrastructure on school grounds can play to better protect and improve the quality of surface and groundwater, with a specific focus on reducing or eliminating nitrogen pollution on Long Island.

Green Infrastructure refers to a wide array of actions that restore, protect, and imitate the natural water cycle. Green Infrastructure uses soil, vegetation, and other natural resources to better control rainwater where it falls, reducing stormwater runoff which can pick up and carry pollutants directly into storm drains and waterbodies.

Can the proposal include more than one kind of Green Infrastructure (i.e., permeable pavement and rain gardens)?

Yes, if the proposal addresses nitrogen pollution on school grounds you can include one or multiple ideas.

What resources are available to students?

Students will need to conduct background research on Green Infrastructure and apply it to Long Island. Please refer to the Resource Library for helpful information and a list of resources. Additionally, a technical advisor is available to help answer any questions on completing the proposal and can be reached at rtitus@lirpc.org or (516)571-7613.

How does the grant award work?

Grants up to \$2,500 will be awarded to the top proposals in each grade category to be used towards implementation or partial implementation of the project on school grounds. A ceremony may be held at the school to present the grant awards to the winning teams.

What if the project will cost more than \$2,500 to implement?

The creativity of the team should not be held back by the cost of installation; however, it should be practical and addresses nitrogen pollution on school grounds. If the grant is awarded to a team with a “bigger” and more expensive idea, the team can choose to implement a portion of the project or work to receive additional funds from another source.

How are the proposals scored?

Final proposals will be evaluated by a Selection Committee by grade category. Proposals will be assessed on such things as originality, technical merit, quality of ideas, practicality, and the degree to which the proposal addresses LINAP and the impacts of nitrogen pollution. It will be helpful to refer to the [Project Proposal Evaluation Rubric](#) that will be used by the Selection Committee to evaluate each proposal.

Is there a format for the proposals to follow?

Please refer to the [Recommended Format](#) to ensure that the proposal includes all the required areas. The Recommended Format also includes a template cover page to be sure all the team information is accessible to the Selection Committee. Feel free to be creative with any artwork, maps, photos, etc.

Who is eligible?

Any NYS accredited school in Nassau or Suffolk Counties serving students 6-12 (both public and private).

What are the deadlines?

September 26, 2023	Request for LOI Issued
November 13, 2023	LOI Due
February 2, 2024	Final Projects Due
March 2024	Winners Announced
May/June 2024	Award Ceremonies