



## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

### Long Island Water Quality Challenge A STEM Competition to Curb Nitrogen Pollution on School Grounds

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An initiative of the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan ([LINAP](#)), the Long Island Regional Planning Council ([LIRPC](#)) is requesting Expressions of Interest from Nassau and Suffolk County schools in grades 6-12 to develop Green Infrastructure innovations that can make an impact on reducing nitrogen pollution on school grounds. The goal of the Long Island Water Quality Challenge ([LIWQC](#)) is to promote project-based learning in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in Long Island schools, encouraging enthusiasm for STEM learning and an interest in pursuing STEM-related careers. Green Infrastructure project examples may include rain gardens and planter boxes, green roofs, permeable pavement, rainwater harvesting, and bioswales – student teams can build off one of these ideas or create a completely new concept to improve water quality and reduce nitrogen pollution on school grounds. Student teams will compete with the possibility of being awarded a \$2,500 grant to be used for implementation or partial implementation of the winning project design. Accepting the grant and implementing the winning project is optional and at the discretion of the student team and school.

Student teams interested in participating in the LIWQC should submit an Expression of Interest signed by the faculty lead (teacher, principal, science coordinator) on school letterhead and submit by email to Rachel Titus at [Rtitus@lirpc.org](mailto:Rtitus@lirpc.org). The Expression of Interest should include a brief description of the project concept and include the following: 1) how “Green Infrastructure” can be incorporated on school grounds to reduce nitrogen pollution; 2) the grade(s), number of students, and designated faculty representative with contact information; 3) a brief description of the class or club associated with the team participating in the competition. The Expression of Interest is not binding; the school may withdraw from the competition at any time.

#### **Eligibility**

Any NYS accredited school in Nassau and Suffolk counties that serves students in grades 6-12 is eligible.

#### **Final Project Submission**

The proposal requirements are provided in the [Green Infrastructure Project Details](#). The [Recommended Proposal Format](#) will assist each team in writing and organizing their project proposals.

Project proposals are to be submitted via email to [rtitus@lirpc.org](mailto:rtitus@lirpc.org) no later than February 2, 2024.

## Communication

The LIRPC will answer any initial questions both directly and by posting responses to the [LIRPC website](#).  
Contact Rachel Titus, Program Coordinator:

Email: [rtitus@lirpc.org](mailto:rtitus@lirpc.org)

Phone: (516) 571-7613

## Evaluation of Final Project

Final written project proposals will be evaluated on originality, technical merit, understanding of the topic, quality of ideas, and practicality. Final project proposals should be clear, understandable, and make effective use of any visual aids. A [Project Proposal Evaluation Rubric](#) will be used by the Selection Committee. Teams will be evaluated according to grade category: 1) Grade 6; 2) Grades 7 and 8; 3) Grades 9-12.

## Recognition/Award Presentation

Teams with the highest caliber project proposals will be recognized within each of the grade categories noted above and awarded a grant not to exceed \$2500 for project implementation on school grounds. Accepting the grant and implementing the project is optional and at the discretion of the student teams and schools. LIRPC will coordinate with each school on the presentation of an award and distribution of *Certificates of Recognition*. All participating students will receive a *Certificate of Participation*.

## Project Schedule

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|----------------------|--|
| ▪ September 26, 2023 | Request for Expressions of Interest issued |
| ▪ November 13, 2023  | Letters of Interest due                    |
| ▪ February 2, 2024   | Final project proposals submitted          |
| ▪ March 2024         | Awardees Announced                         |
| ▪ May/June 2024      | Awards Presented                           |

## Helpful Links and Documents

The following links and documents are also available on [LIRPC.org](#) to assist the teams with developing project proposals.

- [Green Infrastructure Project Details](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)
- [LIWQC Resource Library on LIRPC.org](#)
- [Recommended Project Format](#)
- [Project Evaluation Scoring Rubric](#)
- [LINAP Information Video](#)
- [2024 STEM Flyer](#)

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