



What is Nitrogen Smart Communities?

Nitrogen Smart Communities (NSC) is a voluntary program created by The Long Island Regional Planning Council (LIRPC) and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) as part of the Long Island Watershed Program (LIWP). Nitrogen is the leading cause of water quality deterioration in Long Island's estuaries. Excess nitrogen can cause toxic algal blooms that lead to low oxygen conditions, fish kills, and degraded wetlands and marine habitats. Nitrogen also contaminates the groundwater which is the sole source of Long Island's drinking water.

By following a series of 5 steps, each community will learn more about its distinct sources of nitrogen pollution and take actionable measures to reduce or eliminate nitrogen and engage residents so that they too can play a role in improving water quality where they live. Participating communities earn tiered levels of status certification – bronze, silver, and gold.

What to Expect from NSC

- Technical support throughout the entire program. Each municipality is assigned a Technical Advisor to provide direction and assistance with each step.
- The Technical Advisor will create stormwater, fertilizer, and sewerage/cesspool GIS mapping, if needed.
- Guidance and assistance completing a nitrogen source inventory.
- Guidance with actions that will reduce nitrogen pollution within the community.
- LIRPC and DEC will provide program oversight, direction, and support throughout the program.
- LIRPC and DEC will provide each municipality with a nitrogen source summary, supplying the percentage for each possible source of pollution within the community.
- Participating communities will receive recognition through outreach as a leading community in improving water quality on Long Island.

Advantages of Participating in NSC

- Acknowledgement as a leader on Long Island for clean water
- Investing in economic growth which will benefit tourism and property values
- Promoting better water quality and environmental protection where you live
- Improving community health and safety
- Stronger engagement with residents that care about the future of their community

Which Communities are Eligible to Participate in NSC?

Funding for the pilot phase of NSC has been provided by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Long Island Sound Partnership. Municipalities within the Long Island Sound Partnership boundary in Nassau and Suffolk counties are eligible to apply at this time. To find out if your community is eligible, contact rtitus@lirpc.org.

To learn more about NSC visit [Nitrogen Smart Communities](https://www.lirpc.org/nitrogen-smart-communities) or email at rtitus@lirpc.org.

