



REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST **Long Island Water Quality Challenge**

A STEAM Competition Focused on Green Infrastructure and Clean Water Innovation

An initiative of the Long Island Watershed Program ([LIWP](#)), the Long Island Regional Planning Council ([LIRPC](#)) is requesting Letters of Interest (LOI) from Nassau and Suffolk County schools in grades 6-12 to participate in the **Long Island Water Quality Challenge** ([LIWQC](#)).

Student teams are invited to investigate a real-world stormwater runoff and/or flooding challenge at a specific site within their school or community and develop an innovative, science-based solution that will improve water quality on Long Island. Teams will examine existing site conditions, identify how stormwater or floodwater may transport pollutants, and develop a green infrastructure redesign or innovative solution appropriate for the selected site.

Project Details

Stormwater runoff and flooding occur when rainwater and melted snow flows over streets, rooftops, and other impervious surfaces, picking up pollutants along the way. Because these surfaces prevent water from soaking into the ground, the runoff is not naturally filtered by soil and vegetation. Instead, it flows untreated into storm drains and nearby waterways, carrying pollutants that degrade water quality on Long Island.

Students are challenged to design a solution that prevents polluted water from entering local waterways using green infrastructure or other innovative approaches. Projects should identify pollutants that may be transported by stormwater or flooding—such as nitrogen, phosphorus, bacteria, or other contaminants—and consider how the proposed solution could reduce their flow into Long Island's waterways or groundwater.

Students will compete with the possibility of being awarded a grant up to \$2,500 to be used for implementation or partial implementation of the winning project design on school grounds. Students may study and design for either a school or community site, but grant-funded implementation must occur on school grounds.

Project Topic

Students will address a real stormwater runoff or flooding challenge on school grounds or in their community. Teams will investigate how water flows through their selected site and design either a green infrastructure solution or another innovative approach to better manage stormwater and flooding to help prevent pollutants from reaching Long Island's waterways.

Letter of Interest Submission

Prior to submitting the attached Letter of Interest form, student teams must review the LIWQC Overview video to better understand how pollutants from flooding and runoff impacts water quality on Long Island. Upon viewing the video, the attached Letter of Interest form can be completed, signed by the faculty lead, and returned by email to rtitus@lirpc.org.

Communication

The LIRPC will answer questions prior to the project proposal due date. All inquiries and responses will be posted on the LIRPC website. A technical advisor will be available to answer questions throughout the proposal submission process. Contact Rachel Titus at rtitus@lirpc.org or 516-571-7613.

Final Project Submission

Teams should follow the guidelines of the LIWQC Overview and Requirements document. It is also helpful to follow the Scoring Rubric to earn as many points as possible.

Evaluation of Final Project

The Scoring Rubric will be used by the Selection Committee to review and score each project proposal.

Recognition/Award Presentation

LIRPC will coordinate an award ceremony at each winning school. All students that participate in a winning team will receive *Certificates of Recognition*. Each participant that submits a proposal will receive a *Certificate of Participation*.

Project Schedule

September 15, 2026

November 6, 2026

February 5, 2027

March 2027

May/June 2027

Request for Letters of Interest issued

Letters of Interest due

Final project proposals submitted

Awardees Announced

Awards Presented

Information Contact

Rachel Titus

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Letter of Interest Submission Form

School: _____

Class/Club:

Grade:

Students:

Teacher/Advisor: _____

Contact Information:

Each team should view the [LIWQC Informational Video](#) prior to submitting the Letter of Interest Submission. The team advisor/teacher's signature indicates that the team has viewed the Overview and is entering the Challenge. *The LOI is not binding; the school may withdraw from the competition at any time.*

Teacher/Advisor Signature: