Nitrogen Smart Communities

A voluntary program for Long Island municipalities

Identify local sources of nitrogen pollution, engage residents, and put practical reduction activities into action.

Why nitrogen matters

Long Island relies on underground aquifers for all of its drinking water. Excess nitrogen can seep into groundwater or wash off the land into streams, ponds, and coastal waters. In bays, harbors, and other coastal waters, it can fuel algal blooms and lower oxygen levels, harming fish, shellfish, and marine habitats.

How municipalities participate

1. **Adopt the NSC Pledge**
   Pass a municipal resolution and appoint an NSC Coordinator.
2. **Form an Advisory Committee**
   Develop a Community Outreach Plan to engage residents, businesses, and local organizations.
3. **Inventory nitrogen sources**
   Review modeled nitrogen estimates and gather local information.
4. **Build an implementation plan**
   Choose priority activities and set a schedule.
5. **Carry out the plan**
   Implement activities and document completed work.

Bronze	Silver	Gold
Complete Steps 1–2	Complete Steps 1–3	Complete all 5 steps and earn at least 5 activity points

Support for municipalities

An assigned Technical Advisor helps municipalities interpret local nitrogen information, use program worksheets, and select actions that fit local priorities. Participants also receive modeled nitrogen estimates, an Advisory Committee Packet, and planning tools.

Learn more or ask about eligibility

Municipal inquiries and media contact

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