



The Long Island Water Quality Challenge

A STEM competition invites middle schoolers to join the effort to tackle nitrogen pollution

On Long Island, excess nitrogen has degraded our surface waters and groundwater. The main sources of this pollution are aging septic systems, fertilizer and stormwater runoff.

The Long Island Water Quality Challenge, a STEM competition, invites students to design projects to reduce nitrogen pollution on their school grounds. Student teams will choose from one of two categories:

- **Low Input Landscaping** to identify ways to reduce use of fertilizers, pesticides and overwatering by choosing different landscape designs and plant varieties on school grounds.
- **Stormwater Treatment** to devise ways to collect and/or treat runoff on their school grounds to help reduce pollutants.

A panel of experts will evaluate student team submissions on originality, innovation, quality of ideas, visual design, technical merit, digital and oral presentation, and collaboration. There will be an awards ceremony where the top projects and teams will be honored.

Who is Eligible? Any state accredited school in Nassau or Suffolk serving students in grades 6, 7 and 8. Schools may submit up to two teams of any size.

What Are the Deadlines? A simple Letter of Interest is due on May 17, 2019. The project will kick off in Fall, 2019.

Where do We Get More Information? Go to www.lirpc.org, email info@lirpc.org, or call 516-571-7613.

The Challenge was created by the Long Island Regional Planning Council, which along with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Nassau and Suffolk Counties, is implementing the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan, or LINAP. LINAP is a multi-faceted, multi-year effort to reduce the amount of nitrogen entering Long Island's groundwater and surface waters.



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