

# New Water Management District to Help Suffolk County, New York, Reduce Nitrogen

Suffolk County, New York, is planning to establish a countywide water management district to aid in the fight against bacterial contamination of its Atlantic Ocean shoreline.

The county occupies the eastern end of Long Island and has worked for years to counter problems from the approximately 360,000 cesspools used for onsite wastewater treatment.

What the management district will do, said county executive Steve Bellone in a press release, is enable repair of the county's water infrastructure. It will do this by creating a structure to implement the county's long-term water quality plan, expand financial assistance to homeowners, and serve as a way to invest in new systems and advanced wastewater treatment.

The long-term water quality plan calls for investing \$4 billion over 50 years to reduce nitrogen by adding municipal sewer service to some properties and installing nitrogen-removing onsite units on parcels where municipal service is uneconomical.

In 2017, the county established a grant program to help property owners with the cost of advanced onsite equipment. Voters approved a tax for the grants, and the state later contributed \$10 million.

The county and several of its townships and cities have changed their wastewater treatment laws in the past few years to forbid any new cesspools and require advanced, nitrogen-removing onsite units for any new construction or expansions of existing buildings.

[https://www.onsiteinstaller.com/online\\_exclusives/2021/03/rules-and-regs-new-water-management-district-to-help-suffolk-county-new-york-reduce-nitrogen](https://www.onsiteinstaller.com/online_exclusives/2021/03/rules-and-regs-new-water-management-district-to-help-suffolk-county-new-york-reduce-nitrogen)

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March 22, 2021