

New York's Suffolk County to Continue Building Infrastructure in Advanced Onsite Systems

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- **January 2020**

Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone said last fall that the county will install 1,200 nitrogen-reducing onsite systems in 2020. This would more than double the number of advanced systems installed monthly under the current grant program, he says, according to the newspaper *Newsday*.

The county, which occupies the eastern end of Long Island, has been troubled with near-shore pollution coming in part from onsite wastewater systems. Thousands of homes in the county rely on cesspools for treatment, and the county and some municipalities have passed laws requiring the use of nitrogen-reducing systems in new construction and for significant remodeling.

Also in New York, the East Hampton Town Board is considering an increase in the rebate program for replacement of onsite wastewater systems with nitrogen-reducing systems.

Financial support for homeowners would increase to a maximum of \$20,000 — an increase of about \$5,000 — and would allow the town to pay contractors directly instead of requiring property owners to pay costs upfront and then apply to the town for reimbursement. Changing from a rebate program to a direct-payment grant program will remove the possibility that homeowners need to report rebate money as taxable income, reports *The Southampton Press*.