



How to Install Innovative Advanced (IA) Septic Systems in Suffolk County

The Problem:



Tens of thousands of homes in Suffolk County rely on septic tanks or cesspools to dispose of human waste. Sewage is leaking from these systems, allowing nitrogen, pharmaceuticals, and other chemicals to pass through Long Island's sandy soils and into ground and surface waters.



In surface water, the pollution results in harmful algal blooms, fish kills, and beach closures while groundwater is left contaminated by household chemicals. These events threaten public health, hurt local businesses and our quality of life.

The Solution:



New technology known as Innovated Advanced or IA septic systems can remove up to 70% of nitrogen from sewage. IA septic systems would restore Long Island's commercial fishing, boating, and recreation industry.

The Process:

- 1 Apply for Grant**
Applicant applies for grant prior to installation of IA septic system. Grant application is reviewed by Suffolk County and approved.
- 2 Hire Design Professional**
Homeowner retains design professional to create engineering plans and chooses what IA system they would like to install from an IA vendor.
- 3 Building Permit Approved**
Building permit to install septic system is approved by Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) and homeowner gets the green light to install their IA septic system.
- 4 Install IA Septic System**
IA septic system is installed into home and a SCDHS inspector does a final inspection of the installation.
- 5 Receive Grant**
Final grant is issued by Suffolk County and paid to the vendor.

Homeowners can be eligible for up to \$30,000 to install an IA septic system from Suffolk County's Reclaim our Water Septic Improvement Program.



Grant Eligibility Criteria:

- The residence must be served by a septic system or cesspool and not connected to a sewer system or located within a proposed sewer district.
- New construction on vacant lots is not eligible.
- Property does not have any outstanding or open real property tax liens.
- There must be a valid certificate of occupancy (CO) or equivalent issued by the applicable town or village.
- Income verification (Property Owners must provide a copy of each property owner's most recently filed federal income tax return).

Need Help?



In 2020, the North Shore Land Alliance with The Nature Conservancy hired a Water Quality Improvement Coordinator to help homeowners and small business owners navigate the IA building permit and grant application process at no charge. If you believe your current septic system is failing and would like an IA septic system, please contact our Water Quality Improvement Coordinator for assistance.



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