Town of East Hampton
Septic Rebate Program

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April 30, 2019 *UPDATED: 1/9/2019*
Need for Water Quality Improvements

- Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)
- Low Dissolved Oxygen
- Decline in aquatic habitat for seagrasses
- Shellfishing closures due to high bacteria levels
- Bathing beach closures
- Degradation of groundwater resources
Main Sources of Pollutants

- **Substandard/Failing Septic Systems**
  - Of ~19,400 developed parcels:
  - ~12,500 using antiquated cesspools
  - ~6,651 with leachfield system
  - Not designed to treat nitrogen

  *Data sited in Town-Wide Wastewater Management Plan (2015)*

- **Stormwater Runoff**
  - Overland
  - Septic Overflow
Why should you upgrade your system?

- Cesspools do not treat wastewater to remove nitrogen
- Innovative/Alternative systems denitrify wastewater
- New systems improve water quality
  - Groundwater and surface waters
- Improved water quality means better fishing, boating, swimming and healthy ecosystem
- Clean water can protect real estate values
Community Preservation Fund

- The mission of the CPF is to preserve community character - amended to include the protection and improvement of the quality of all water resources.
- East Hampton Town has purchased over 2,200 acres of land for preservation through CPF
- Up to 20% of annual CPF revenue to be used on water quality improvement projects
- Made specific recommendations for the water quality component of the CPF:
  - Over the life of the CPF water quality improvement plan, approximately $152,000,000 could be available for water quality improvement projects
Recommendations from CPF Water Quality Improvement Plan

- Incentivize residential septic system upgrades in environmentally sensitive areas with nitrogen reducing technology
- Community/neighborhood based septic systems
- Upgrade municipal facilities septic systems with advanced treatment technologies
- Install permeable reactive barriers (PRBs) to passively remove contaminants on town properties
- Install additional vessel pump out stations
- Implement stormwater improvement measures
- Develop and implement aquatic habitat restoration projects
SC DHS Provisionally Approved Technologies

Hydro-Action
Fuji Clean System
Norweco Singleir TNT
SeptiTech STAAR
Norweco Hydrokinetic
Orenco Advantex AX-RT
Town of East Hampton Sanitary Code Changes

• Local Law amending Chapter 210: Sanitary Systems effective 1/1/2018
• Requires Building Permit for any work on Sanitary Systems within the Town
• Requires the installation of Low-Nitrogen Sanitary Systems in the following situations;
  – New construction
  – Any voluntary replacement of an existing system
  – All substantial expansion of existing structures (>50% GFA or Value)
  – All large capacity cesspools mandated under EPA regulations
  – All non-residential properties that require site plan review
• No special permit review required if new system is located in the same location as existing septic system
• BP/CO fees are waived
Town of East Hampton Septic Grant/Rebate Program

- Rebate Program available for property owners to replace existing systems with Innovative/Alternative Septic Systems
  - Rebates up to $20,000 in the Water Protection District or for low-moderate income
  - Rebates up to $15,000 for all other eligible applicants

- Town will pay any remaining balance to the installer directly after the County/State grants have been applied and the remaining incentive can be reimbursed to the homeowner to cover other eligible costs related to the installation

- “Other eligible costs” are those required for the installation: site preparation costs, survey, water testing, engineering, drinking water well install or hook-up to public water, and site restoration costs

- Residential and commercial property owners are eligible

- Second homeowners and rental properties are eligible

- New construction not eligible

- Income eligibility is no longer required

- Low-Income homeowners with failing systems can get extra help through the Town Housing and Community Development CHIP program
How to Apply for the Septic Rebate Program

• Step 1: Fill out an eligibility application form and submit to Natural Resources (tax returns, CO, deed, survey, W9 form)
  – Ensures program eligibility
  – Indicates rebate amount

• Step 2: Fill out septic rebate application following installation
  – Once you receive approval from Suffolk County DHS and have TOEH Building Permit
  – Install I/A system
    • Notify Mellissa in Natural Resources of install date for inspection
  – Bring estimates/proof of payment to East Hampton Town Natural Resources Dept.
  – Receive Payment
    • Once application is submitted and approved, payment will be received in 4 to 6 weeks
Combined Funding Available

- Homeowners can receive all sources of funding!
  - Town Septic Rebate up to $20,000
  - Suffolk County SIP Grant up to $20,000
  - New York State Septic Replacement Fund up to $10,000

- Total Rebate/Grant funding available up to $50,000
  - Plus CDCLI Loan Program if needed up to $10,000

- Additional assistance available to low-income homeowners through the Towns Housing and Community Development CHIP Program
  - Upfront costs are paid through the CHIP program which are reimbursed by the Rebate
Septic Rebate Program Statistics
As of March 2019

- Total Septic Rebate Eligibility Applications = 135
- Total Systems Installed through Rebate Program = 24 (8 more pending)
- Total Rebate Funds Paid in 2018 = $195,255.42
- Total Building Permits Issued for Low-Nitrogen Septic Systems = 108
  (includes new construction and those ineligible for rebate)
Where were systems installed?
More Information:

• Town of East Hampton Projects & Septic Rebate Program:
  – TOEH Natural Resources Department
    • Mellissa Winslow - Environmental Analyst
    • Samantha Klein - Grants Technician
  – 631-324-0496 or naturalresources@ehamptonny.gov