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NOWRA
National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association

Summer 2026

NOWRA GOES TO WASHINGTON!

See page 15

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The Onsite Journal

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A NOTE FROM THE **PRESIDENT**

Greetings from up north!

With the snow finally gone, the ice off the lakes, and docks and boats going in, it's clear that summer is on its way.

This spring has brought a lot of exciting developments for NOWRA. Our influence continues to grow as we welcome new state affiliates. Both the Long Island Advanced Septic Association (LIASA—New York) and the Hawaii Onsite Water Recycling Association (HOWRA) have officially joined the NOWRA family.

In early May, our Executive Director, Tom Groves; Past President/Government Relations Chair, Carl Thompson; President Elect, Dwayne Jones; and I met with our respective U.S. Senators offices to advocate for the decentralized wastewater industry. In each meeting, we highlighted the funding needs identified in the 2022 EPA Clean Watersheds Needs Survey (CWNS) and discussed the Clean Water Allotment Modernization Act (CWAMA), being sponsored by Sen. Rick Scott of Florida and Sen. Mark Kelly of Arizona. For a detailed summary of these conversations, please see page (15) of this publication for the report from our lobbyists, Tim Perrin and Marisa Campbell of The Southern Group.

While in Washington, we also met with our partners at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. A key topic of discussion with Director of Wastewater Management's Andrew Sawyers and his team was the issue of wastewater treatment plants acceptance of septage. We also had a productive conversation with members of the National Association of Home Builders on areas for future collaboration.

Carl Thompson and I had the opportunity to participate in the Vessel US WASH Convening, also held the first week of May. It was inspiring to connect with so many passionate individuals and organizations committed to water quality and wastewater solutions. Kabir Prabhu Thatte, Executive Director of the Vessel Collective, provided an in depth overview of the National Road Map to Close the U.S. Water Gap—a position statement that NOWRA has signed on to. We also strengthened ties with organizations such as DigDeep, WAI, RCAP, and the U.S. Water Alliance. On May 6, Gabby Saba of WAI and I presented on workforce development in the decentralized wastewater industry and gathered valuable feedback on how to attract young talent to our field.

Have a fantastic summer!

Head to the beach, fire up the grill, get out on the lake, enjoy time with family—and stay safe!

— **Chris LeClair**

NOWRA President Chris LeClair visited Senator Amy Klobuchar's office during a trip to Washington to advocate for the decentralized wastewater industry.

MESSAGE FROM THE **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

We are extremely pleased to have **THREE** new state affiliates as members of NOWRA in 2026 – Alabama, Hawaii, and New York/Long Island. That makes 28 Affiliates representing 33 States! Welcome aboard Alabama, Hawaii, and New York to NOWRA and our Summer issue of the Onsite Journal.

The first six months were quite a whirlwind for NOWRA and our industry. NOWRA representatives were all over the country at various state onsite wastewater conferences, pilot educational workshops, and in Washington D.C. representing our industry with US EPA and select members of the US Senate.

We have also been busy with our grant funded educational development and technical assistance work to assist small communities with their wastewater needs. We are looking to expand our grant work as we applied for an additional training and technical assistance grant this spring. We hope to have good news for everyone in our next issue.

Inside this issue you'll find an update on our Washington D.C. adventures and meetings as well as an article on NOWRA supported research findings, and a technical article on Nitrogen removal technologies. Also included are our regular features—an advocacy report from Washington D.C., state affiliate news, industry news, and more!

We are now beginning to shift our focus towards our October 2026 Onsite Wastewater Mega-Conference in Westminster, Colorado. We had a record-setting response to our Call for Abstracts. The agenda is currently under development, and we look forward to opening attendee and exhibitor registration in early summer. This year's conference will once again feature our Emerging Professionals Scholarship Cornhole Tournament (see page 34) as well as our Backhoe Roe-D-Hoe. Make sure you put this on your schedule to attend.

Much of the great work that you will read about inside of the publication is due to the dedicated board members, committee chairs, and volunteers. This organization is only as strong as its volunteers. We will be searching for four new members to the NOWRA Board in our 2026 election. You can learn more about our current Board of Directors and nominations on page 14.

As you read about NOWRA's activities, please consider joining a committee or task force, see page 21 for a list of current NOWRA committees. It's a great opportunity to expand your horizons, network with like professionals, feel good about yourself and the industry that we have chosen, and make life-long friends.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as the Executive Director of this organization. Our next issue will provide a preview of our 2026 Onsite Wastewater Mega-Conference being held in Westminster, Colorado. I hope to see many of you there!

— **Thomas Groves**

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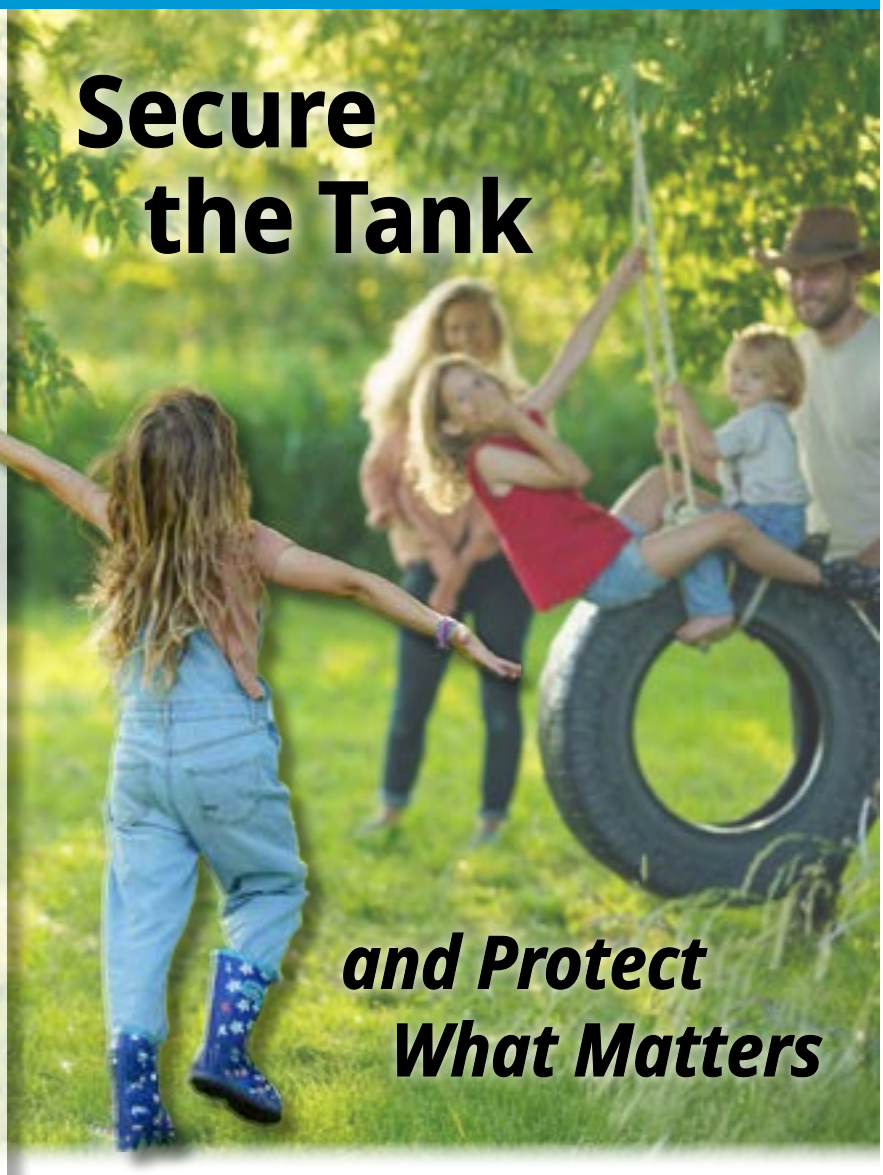

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STATE AFFILIATE NEWS

CPOW (COLORADO) — CPOW has been working on updates to our Soils & Design Courses to include the state regulatory updates that went into effect last year. CPOW has scheduled two dates for each course this summer, starting with the CPOW Soils Course in June. CPOW is also working diligently on planning the 2026 Mega Conference Social Event and Field Trips and are looking forward to offering attendees the opportunity to visit some of the more iconic landmarks that the Front Range has to offer, both in and out of the foothills. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in Westminster this October!

MSO (MISSOURI) — MSO has started its own Emerging Professionals Committee. Evelyn Mann is the Chairperson, Jay Julien is the Vice-Chair, and Raelyn Kirchoff is the Secretary. This new committee is setting goals and will host an event at the MSO Annual Conference and Trade Show in January 2027. The group is planning some activities to help new professionals and attract young people to the industry. MSO was also successful in passing legislation. Governor Kehoe signed Senate Bill 914 into law in May. This bill will phase out percolation testing and require soil morphology testing. In addition, the bill allowed permit fees to change. MSO thanks all of its partners for helping get this bill passed this year.

OOWA (OHIO) — Greetings from the Buckeye State! As this article is being written, we are preparing for our Outdoor Field Day taking place taking place on June 17, 2026 in Knox County! We will be installing an Eljen system for a military family in central Ohio and we are blown away by the generosity of this industry! Be sure to check out our Facebook page to see how it goes!

Be sure to save the date for the 2027 OOWA Annual Conference taking place on January 11-13, 2027 at Cherry Valley Hotel in Newark, Ohio!

SCOWA (SOUTH CAROLINA) — Following the success of SCOWA's inaugural 2-Day Conference & Expo held earlier this year in Myrtle Beach, the South Carolina Onsite Wastewater Association (SCOWA) continues to expand educational and networking opportunities for onsite wastewater professionals across the state. On May 28, SCOWA hosted its inaugural Lowcountry Field Day in Ruffin, SC. This hands-on outdoor training event brought together installers, pumpers, regulators, soil classifiers, manufacturers, and industry professionals from throughout South Carolina for a full day of practical education and networking. Attendees also experienced live equipment demonstrations, field exercises, safety discussions, permitting and documentation education, soil recognition training, and real-world conversations focused on onsite wastewater systems and industry best practices.

SCOWA remains committed to strengthening South Carolina's onsite wastewater industry through education, outreach, and partnership opportunities and looks forward to another successful event

WOSSA (WASHINGTON) — WOSSA had a highly successful SEPTIC-CON in January as we celebrated 30 years of our conference. We had large turnouts for both attendees and exhibitors, and our auctions raised over $125,000 to support our two scholarship programs and our charitable donations. All our current and outgoing Board Members were recognized, with Justin Wells of Dano's and Baker Septic being this year's President. We are already gearing up for next year's event with a Call for Speakers request going out.

We had our first Board Retreat in years which established a five-year strategic plan for the association focusing on education, our conference, and outreach—particularly to local health jurisdictions and state agencies. Our Education Committee is very active, we are currently reviewing all our existing classes, and we will then move towards developing new training for in-person, online, and webinar formats.

Due to the revisions in the state on-site sewage code (WAC 246-272A) requiring that all counties must certify their Operation and Maintenance Service providers, and the requirement that all septic systems must be inspected at time of sale, WOSSA has been busy contracting with LHJ's on the east side of the state for

continued on page 10

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STATE AFFILIATE NEWS (continued)

classes and certification exams. We are also establishing an additional training center in Moses Lake that we hope will be open this Spring or Summer. This will serve as a regional hub for classes and testing.

WOSSA also was awarded a National Rural Water Association grant, and we will be focusing on a small rural community. The goal is to meet with the community and other stakeholders to identify issues with community wastewater infrastructure and develop a comprehensive Community Assessment Report detailing community infrastructure, environmental impacts on surface water, and existing regulatory/funding environments. A Solutions Plan will be developed identifying cost-effective decentralized solutions.

YOWA (YANKEE) — The Yankee Onsite Wastewater Association (YOWA) continues to expand training and professional development opportunities throughout New England. Recent and upcoming programs include soils field workshops, pressure distribution webinars, and onsite system training for regulators and industry professionals. YOWA is also excited to launch its new Academic Research Presentation Scholarship, supporting students conducting onsite wastewater and environmental research who are presenting at the NOWRA Mega-Conference. Through education, outreach, and collaboration, YOWA remains committed to strengthening the onsite wastewater profession and supporting the next generation of industry leaders.

See full listing of NOWRA state affiliates.

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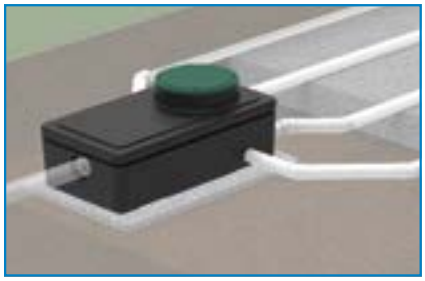

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NAWT UPDATE

The National Association of Wastewater Technicians (NAWT) continues advancing the onsite wastewater industry for pumpers and haulers through expanded training, education, certification, and national collaboration initiatives.

One of NAWT's most significant recent developments is the launch of the NEW NAWT OWTS Inspection Standards Course. Formerly the NAWT Inspector Training Program, the course underwent a comprehensive multi-year revision to provide inspectors with a more consistent and standardized approach to OWTS inspections while promoting higher industry standards across the country.

NAWT has partnered with NOWRA, SORA, PSAI, GOWA, and practitioners in the industry to form the National Septage Disposal Crisis Alliance task force to bring awareness to the growing challenges septage pumpers and portable sanitation haulers face when attempting to dispose of septage at wastewater treatment facilities nationwide. As part of this effort, the organizations will host the Wastewater Treatment Symposium at the WEQ in Nashville on October 5th.

NAWT is also partnering with NOWRA for the annual Onsite Wastewater Mega Conference in Westminster, October 25th-28th, where NAWT will host an educational track and a post-conference Vacuum Truck Technician Training and Certification Course focused on equipment operation, daily maintenance, loading/unloading, safety procedures and more.

STATE AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHT

For the State Affiliate Spotlight this issue, we are featuring one of NOWRA's newest State Affiliates, Hawaii. ***Fran Poma, the Executive Director of the Hawaii Onsite Water Recycling Association (HOWRA)*** *answered some questions for us about why they formed their new association and how NOWRA has assisted them.*

Why are you creating a state association?

FP: Hawaii is facing one of the most pressing water infrastructure challenges in the nation. The state has committed to eliminating more than 80,000 cesspools by 2050—a goal that is both urgent and, with current resources, far from reach. Cesspools remain the single largest source of sewage pollution in Hawaii, threatening the health of our communities, our coastlines, and the ecosystems that define our islands.

HOWRA was created because solving this problem requires more than policy—it requires practitioners. Engineers, installers, pumpers, designers, service providers, and regulators all have a critical role to play, and right now there is no unified platform bringing those voices together. HOWRA exists to drive the practical, field-informed conversations that move cesspool conversions from aspiration to action. We believe that forming a dedicated nonprofit —anchored in the technical community—is the catalyst Hawaii needs to get this effort heading in the right direction.

How was NOWRA able to help you?

FP: Affiliating with NOWRA gives HOWRA immediate access to a depth of resources that would take years to build independently. Perhaps most critically, NOWRA provides the training infrastructure to address what we see as a dual workforce challenge in Hawaii: a generation of experienced professionals approaching retirement—the so-called silver tsunami —and a need to attract and develop the next generation of onsite wastewater practitioners.

Beyond workforce development, NOWRA opens the door to learning from states that have already navigated similar challenges. Hawaii's cesspool crisis is unique in scale and environment, but the engineering principles, regulatory frameworks, and funding mechanisms that have worked elsewhere are directly applicable here. NOWRA also connects us to national funding channels—federal infrastructure programs, rural water funding, and other resources —that a state-level organization working alone would struggle to access. In short, NOWRA gives us a proven foundation from which to build Hawaii-specific solutions, so we are not starting from scratch.

What do you see as important issues to your members?

FP: Above all, our members need two things: knowledge and community. The onsite wastewater industry in Hawaii has long operated without a dedicated professional network — one where an engineer, an installer, a regulator, and a pumper can sit in the same room, speak the same language, and work toward the same goal.

HOWRA provides that platform. It gives the technical community —the boots on the ground who manage these systems every single day—a voice in the conversations that shape policy and practice. These are the professionals who understand what actually happens in the field: what works, what fails, and why. Too often, solutions are developed without that perspective. HOWRA changes that.

Our members also gain access to a national network of like-minded professionals facing the same challenges across the country. That peer connection —learning from those who have been there, sharing what we know about Hawaii's unique environment —is invaluable. We are building a community of practice grounded in real-world experience, because we believe the best solutions come from the people closest to the problem.

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

NOWRA Advocacy Gains Momentum in Washington

By Tim Perrin and Marisa Campbell, TSG Advocates

NOWRA leaders recently traveled to Washington, D.C. for a targeted advocacy fly-in focused on advancing the Clean Water Allotment Modernization Act (CWAMA) and elevating decentralized wastewater issues with policymakers and stakeholders.

Alongside Executive Director Tom Groves, NOWRA members from Connecticut, Maryland, and Minnesota met with the offices of Senators Chris Murphy, Richard Blumenthal, Angela Alsobrooks, Amy Klobuchar, and Tina Smith to discuss the growing need for federal wastewater policy to better account for decentralized systems. NOWRA used the meetings to explain how CWAMA would modernize the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) distribution formula so funding more accurately reflects documented infrastructure needs identified in EPA's Clean Watersheds Needs Survey—including decentralized wastewater systems.

The meetings also gave Senate staff an opportunity to hear directly from constituents and industry professionals about wastewater challenges affecting their states. Those conversations generated valuable feedback on messaging, bipartisan outreach, and potential legislative pathways for advancing the bill.

Tim Perrin and Marisa Campbell, NOWRA's lobbyists, accompanied NOWRA's Executive Director and several NOWRA members to Washington and attended meetings with Senators, EPA representatives, and members of the National Association of Home Builders to discuss the growing need for federal wastewater policies to better account for decentralized system.

The fly-in quickly produced tangible results. Shortly afterward, Senator Rick Scott's office incorporated NOWRA-supported revisions into updated CWAMA language clarifying that all categories identified in EPA's Clean Watersheds Needs Survey—including decentralized wastewater—must be reflected in the revised SRF formula. NOWRA subsequently endorsed the revised bill language, and Senator Mark Kelly agreed to serve as the lead Democratic cosponsor, officially making the legislation bipartisan.

With updated language finalized and bipartisan sponsorship secured, NOWRA's advocacy efforts are now focused on building additional Senate and stakeholder support and identifying legislative vehicles to advance the bill later this year.

In addition to Capitol Hill meetings, NOWRA also met with EPA's Wastewater Division to continue discussions surrounding the agency's Decentralized Wastewater Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Workplan and reinforce the rationale behind modernizing the SRF formula. NOWRA also met with representatives from the National

continued on next page

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE *continued*

Association of Home Builders (NAHB) to discuss the increasing connection between housing growth and decentralized wastewater infrastructure, particularly in rapidly developing communities where centralized sewer expansion is often impractical or prohibitively expensive.

Other Legislative Updates from Washington

- **SEPTIC Act Introduced:** NOWRA is monitoring the recently introduced bipartisan SEPTIC Act, which would provide tax relief to help homeowners address failing septic systems and improve water quality protections. The legislation could further elevate decentralized wastewater issues in Congress, and NOWRA is evaluating potential advocacy opportunities surrounding the bill.
- **FY 2027 Appropriations Update:** The House Appropriations Committee recently approved $5 million for USDA's Rural Decentralized Water Systems Grant Program, which supports repair and replacement of privately owned rural wells and decentralized wastewater systems. Notably, this is one of the few times in recent years that the House has matched the Senate's higher funding level for the program.

Taken together, these developments reflect growing recognition in Washington that decentralized wastewater systems are a critical component of the nation's water infrastructure future. With bipartisan engagement increasing and federal stakeholders becoming more familiar with the sector's role in protecting the environment and public health, supporting housing growth, and serving rural communities, NOWRA's advocacy efforts continue to build meaningful momentum for the industry in Congress and across the federal government.

—Tim Perrin and Marisa Campbell
Partners, TSG Advocates

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The following companies and organizations are supporters of NOWRA's advocacy efforts for 2026 and comprise our Lobbying Board of Governors.

We thank them for their efforts & support.

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- Roth North America
- Virginia Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (VOWRA)

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We would welcome your participation on the Board of Governors if you are able to make that commitment.
You are also welcome to contribute at a lower level.
All of the funds raised go directly to supporting our advocacy efforts.

To find out more about NOWRA's Advocacy activities, visit our Advocacy website to get more involved or contact the NOWRA office.

Horizon Scanning for Onsite Wastewater Recycling

By **BRYAN W. BROOKS**, *Environmental Health Science Program, Center for Reservoir and Aquatic Systems Research, Department of Environmental Science, Department of Public Health, Baylor University, Waco, TX, USA* (bryan_brooks@baylor.edu)

How do we identify where we should focus our attention, what we should prioritize for investment, and when we should move forward with specific initiatives? Each of us possesses our own ideas, which are inherently shaped by our knowledge, training, and skills, coupled with our unique personal and professional experiences. We certainly have our individual ideas about what we should do, when we should do it, and how we should go about doing it. But how do we share our ideas with members of our community more broadly? Each year, scientists, engineers, and health professionals hold various workshops and conferences around the world to bring together different perspectives, report results from basic and applied research, and share findings from diverse practice-based activities.

Professional organizations play a fundamentally important role in facilitating such exchanges within and among subject areas of interest to industries, governments, academics, and non-governmental organizations. Water and wastewater is no exception. This year, NOWRA will hold its annual Mega-Conference in Colorado, where we will again benefit from meeting and sharing together, this time in the Mile High City. I look forward to seeing many of you there. But even as good as our annual meetings can be, we may not all be able to attend. There are also only so many hours in a day, and with the rapid expansion of information, it can seem overwhelming to acquire all the necessary knowledge in an area and stay up to speed with changing trajectories. We must continue to work together. We must find creative ways to think together for collective

continued on next page

Horizon Scanning for Onsite Wastewater Recycling *(continued)*

benefits, advancing knowledge and improving practice for people and the planet.

Horizon scanning has emerged as a unique approach in environmental science, engineering, and health to identify challenges and opportunities, and support decision-making in a transparent, bottom-up way[1]. A number of disciplines have benefited from horizon scanning because it leverages our collective knowledge and experiences by providing a powerful approach to identify priorities for collective benefits. Simply stated, horizon scanning can be a value-multiplier. Based on recent experience with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Understanding Needs, Challenges, Opportunities, Vision and Roles in Environmental Health Initiative[2-5], the Global Horizon Scanning Project[6-11], and identifying research needs for pharmaceuticals and personal care products in the environment[12-14], an unprecedented opportunity emerged to partner with NOWRA (and the National Environmental Health Association, the State Onsite Regulators Association, the National Association of Wastewater Technicians, and the Water Research Foundation) to launch the Needs for Onsite Wastewater Recycling Research (*NOW-R²*) Initiative[15]. *NOW-R²* engaged diverse topics and professionals from businesses, local, state, and federal government agencies, academic institutions, and nonprofit organizations in a way that was unprecedented for the onsite wastewater and distributed water reuse community. It has yielded unique knowledge for the community because so many people took the time to think together and learn together for broader benefits.

NOW-R²

After initially identifying education, training, and outreach needs and opportunities from *NOW-R²* [16] we recently reported research needs in an article entitled, "Identifying Priority Research Questions for Decentralized Wastewater," which was published by the leading international peer-reviewed journal *Environmental Science & Technology*[17]. This timely contribution is freely available to download and read as an open-access article, thanks to support from NOWRA. Briefly, as part

of *NOW-R2*, we asked you to respond to two questions: "What technical scientific research question (e.g., innovation, design, resiliency, resource recovery), if answered, would substantially advance the science of decentralized wastewater over the next decade?" and "What environmental management (e.g., science-policy, implementation, enforcement) research question, if answered, would substantially advance the practice of decentralized wastewater over the next decade?" After receiving input from hundreds of members of our community, a synthesis workshop with facilitated focus groups was held just after the Mega-Conference in San Marcos, Texas, during which 29 research questions were identified through an established, consensus-based process.

So I hope you will benefit from this recent article, because it comes from your community and promises to support the essential work you do every day for people and the planet. The 29 research needs in "Identifying Priority Research Questions for Decentralized Wastewater," which were partitioned among 6 themes, are already receiving much attention. How will we now aim to answer these important and timely research questions? It will only happen if we continue to work together, think together, and learn together for the greater good. I look forward to sharing more thoughts on these research needs later this year during the Onsite Wastewater Mega-Conference in Colorado.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Bryan W. Brooks is Distinguished Professor of Environmental Science and Public Health at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, USA. His research, which includes water quality and reuse, eco-, environmental and comparative toxicology, environmental and green chemistry, chemical assessment and management, harmful algal blooms, wastewater-based epidemiology, and environmental public health practice, is ongoing on 5 continents. Working with students and other collaborators, Dr. Brooks has published over 350 articles in international scholarly journals and book chapters. He currently serves as Editor-in-Chief of Environmental Science & Technology Letters (American Chemical Society Publications); and previously served as Editor in Chief of Environmental Management (Springer Nature). Dr. Brooks is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, and the Royal Society of Chemistry.

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For further reading and full source citations, please refer to the following Digital Object Identifiers:

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BioMicrobics, Inc.
Ecological Tanks
National Precast Concrete Association (NPCA)
Orenco Systems
Polylok

Bronze Level

Anua
Hoot Systems, LLC
Netafim USA
Roth Global Plastics
WaterColor Insurance Management
Wieser Concrete

Copper Level

Ashland Water Group
Inspector Cameras, LLC
JNM Technologies, Inc./LWRE
FujiClean USA
Hiblow USA, Inc.
Premier Tech Water & Environment
Residential Sewage Treatment Company

Pewter Level

10X Business Broker Mergers & Acquisitions
Apollo Insurance Group
Arris Water Treatment & Technology
NSF International
RioVation
SJE Rhombus
SludgeHammer Group, Ltd.

To learn more about or to join NOWRA's Corporate Membership program, please contact us at 978-496-1800, by email at info@nowra.org, or on our website at www.nowra.org/about/corporate-members.

CORPORATE MEMBER BENEFITS

Corporate Membership in NOWRA is an investment that enhances your business marketing efforts while showing your support of our mission to advance and grow the onsite and decentralized wastewater industry.

Corporate Membership Benefits

- Conference booth, sponsorship, & advertising discounts
- *Onsite Journal* advertising discounts
- Individual NOWRA memberships
- Recognition in the industry
- Federal advocacy on your behalf

Advocacy Successes

1. NOWRA made tremendous progress in 2025 in advocating for the reintroduction and passage of the Clean Water Allotment Modernization Act. This legislation would modernize how **Clean Water State Revolving Fund** dollars are distributed by updating the Reagan-era funding formula to account for each state's population and current infrastructure needs, including the nation's reliance on decentralized wastewater systems. **Importantly, this legislation could lead to a very significant increase in federal resources dedicated to decentralized wastewater stakeholders.** Through our work, we secured committed Congressional champions, built support for the bill among key Congressional offices, engaged NOWRA members to provide state-specific perspectives to policymakers, and rallied the support of like-minded water organizations. Our work continues into 2026, pushing for this transformative policy change to be included in a broader package of federal water programs to be reauthorized this year.
2. NOWRA continues to prioritize advocacy to increase federal appropriations for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Decentralized Water Systems Program and was successful in securing again $5 million in grants and loans for eligible well water and decentralized wastewater system stakeholders in FY26. Further, the appropriations legislation passed by Congress includes an additional $1 million in subgrants specifically targeted for decentralized wastewater systems. These amounts are the same as in FY24 and FY25 and represent a remarkable win for NOWRA in a tight fiscal environment.
3. As part of the process to reauthorize Farm Bill's rural development programs, the House Agriculture Committee unveiled legislation that renews for 5 years the USDA Rural Decentralized Water Systems Grants Program at $20 million per year. Although Congress has only appropriated $5 million for this program in recent fiscal years, without being reauthorized this program would likely not receive any funding during the annual appropriations process.

NOWRA COMMITTEES

NOWRA's committees are the working groups of the organization. They exist to shape the direction of the organization over time. NOWRA welcomes and encourages its members to become involved with its committees and task forces. To belong to a NOWRA committee, you must be a NOWRA member.

Corporate Member Committee
Open to existing NOWRA Corporate Members only
Chair: Ashley Donnelly, Infiltrator Water Technologies

Conference Planning Committee
(2026 Mega-Conference)
Chair: Kate Carney, Colorado Professionals in Onsite Wastewater

Education Committee
Chair: Gary Hawkins, Ph.D., University of Georgia

Emerging Professionals Committee
Chair: Jonathan Kaiser, Infiltrator Water Technologies

Government Relations Committee
Open to existing NOWRA Lobbying BOG only
Chair: Carl Thompson, Infiltrator Water Technologies

Marketing & Communications Committee
Chair: Donna Fiorentino, Infiltrator Water Technologies

Online Education Committee
Chair: Sara Heger, Ph.D.

***Onsite Journal* Committee**
Chair: Robert Bair, Ph.D., University of South Florida

State Affiliates Committee
Open to existing NOWRA state affiliates
Chair: Jessica Wood, Residential Sewage Treatment Co.

Technical Practices Committee
Chair: Chris Strycharz, Infiltrator Water Technologies

For information on joining a committee check out the committee webpage or contact the NOWRA office at info@nowra.org.

Learning Just Got SIMPLE!

NOWRA Online Learning Academy

Online Courses to Meet Everyone's Needs

NOWRA's Online Learning Academy makes it easy for you to obtain high quality onsite wastewater training by bringing the classes to you! It's a great option when:

- you are unable to attend in-person training events,
- you want to train new employees quickly,
- you are a few CEUs short for professional license renewal, or
- you need to better understand onsite wastewater fundamentals.

Our suite of courses has been developed by respected industry professionals from academia, engineering, soil science, and contracting. Each course offers a dynamic mix of classroom lectures, external videos and required readings, along with periodic tests of your knowledge. When you pass a course, you get a personalized Certificate of Completion, which can be used as continuing education documentation.

▶ Onsite A to Z

An overview of onsite wastewater treatment provides a foundation of relevant courses for many professionals.

▶ Installer Training

Ideal for new installers, those preparing for a certification exam, or those looking to brush up on skills.

▶ Troubleshooting

Step-by-step component troubleshooting—for designers, installers, regulators, service providers and more!

▶ Design Courses

These courses lay the groundwork for design and are continuously being expanded with new additions.

▶ Technical Sessions

These courses cover a wide variety of topics and were selected for their continued relevancy to the decentralized industry.

FREE BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY COURSES

The NOWRA Online Learning Academy has free online business and regulator courses available for our members and affiliates.

Our newest business course is **The Ultimate Guide to Growing Your Septic Business Using Digital Marketing and AI Tools**. This course shows how to use a variety of free and low-cost tools to create marketing and bring in more business. ***(Available to members only.)***

Other classes offered include:

Building and Running a Quality Business discusses how to better run a small onsite wastewater business. ***(Available to members only.)***

Insurance Costs and Risk Management was hosted in partnership with Watercolor Insurance Management and shares ways to get the best coverages for your business, focusing on the different kinds of liability management that are most relevant to the onsite industry. ***(Available to members only.)***

Sign up today!
www.pathlms.com/NOWRA

The Regulator's Role in Onsite/Decentralized Wastewater gives an overview of the regulator's role in the onsite wastewater industry, as well as safety, ongoing education, and other important concepts.

Onsite Wastewater Treatment—What is it and Where Can I Go for Information? is one of two webinars presented in partnership with NEHA, covering onsite wastewater treatment function, the various types of onsite treatment systems, educating homeowners, and where to find additional resources and training.

Sewage Disposal-A Priority Item you May be Overlooking as a Food Inspector is the second webinar presented in partnership with NEHA. It discusses onsite wastewater treatment systems in relation to food codes, which government agencies may be involved in evaluations, how to help facilities solve issues that may occur, and other resources and training which are available.

NEW COURSES COMING IN 2026!

HELP US EDUCATE HOMEOWNERS

NOWRA's Online Learning Academy now includes a free, online training module to educate homeowners about their onsite wastewater systems.

The **Homeowner's Education Course** was designed to be an engaging way for people to learn the basics of onsite treatment and maintenance. While the training's target audience is property owners with onsite systems, the concepts are also applicable to the general public, realtors, local health officials, and septic system professionals.

Concepts covered in this short and easy-to-use training module include: the importance of wastewater treatment, an overview of treatment in an onsite system, typical onsite system features, final treatment and dispersal, management, maintenance, safety, and system troubleshooting.

The Homeowner's Education Course was developed through a U.S. EPA grant and in partnership with the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP).

MORE INFO HERE

This course is free but users must create an account on NOWRA's Online Learning Academy

Questions about this course should be directed to NOWRA at info@nowra.org**.**

Apollo Health Insurance

More info and enrollment

New Health Benefits Available for NOWRA Members

At NOWRA, we're committed to supporting the health and well-being of our members. That's why we're excited to announce a new partnership with Apollo Health Insurance.

As a NOWRA member, you now have access to a range of tailored health insurance plans designed to meet your unique needs. Whether you're an installer, designer, pumper, service provider, or other small business owner in the onsite wastewater industry, Apollo offers flexible and affordable options with your lifestyle in mind.

Key Benefits:

- Personalized Plans: Apollo's experts will work with you to create a plan that fits your specific needs and budget.
- Dedicated Support: Our team is here to guide you through the enrollment process, answer questions, and assist with claims.
- Comprehensive Coverage: Enjoy peace of mind knowing you and your team are protected.

To explore your options and enroll, please visit Apollo and NOWRA Enrollment to schedule your call. For immediate assistance or to learn more, please contact Apollo at 816-897-7684.

Nassau County, New York's Nitrogen-Reducing Septic System Grant Program

A Progress Report on the S.E.P.T.I.C. Program

By **Justin Jobin, Derek Betts, and Olivia Calandra**, *Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District*

ABSTRACT

Nitrogen pollution from cesspools and septic systems has been identified as a leading cause of degraded surface water quality on Long Island, New York, contributing to restrictions on shellfishing, toxic algal blooms, and large-scale fish kills. Approximately 40,000 residential properties on the North Shore of Nassau County rely on conventional cesspools and deep leaching pools that provide minimal nutrient treatment. In 2021, Nassau County launched the Septic Environmental Program to Improve Cleanliness (S.E.P.T.I.C.) — a grant program providing up to $20,000 per eligible tax parcel for the replacement of conventional systems with nitrogen-reducing Innovative and Alternative Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (IA OWTS). Administered by the Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District (District) on behalf of Nassau County, the Program has grown from an initial $5 million investment to more than $14 million in combined state, county, and federal funding. The Program's experience to date provides a model that other jurisdictions considering similar grant-based septic upgrade initiatives can adapt and build upon.

INTRODUCTION: The Nitrogen Challenge on Long Island

Nassau County, New York, situated between Queens and Suffolk counties at the western end of Long Island, presents a unique wastewater management challenge. While the majority of the county is served by public sewers, Nassau's North Shore is approximately 90% unsewered and relies almost exclusively on conventional cesspools and deep leaching pools that predate modern standards. Concentrated in the contributing watershed of the Long Island Sound—a federally designated Estuary of National Significance—approximately 40,000 onsite systems.

The environmental consequences of this legacy infrastructure are well documented. All of Nassau County's bays and harbors have been identified as impaired under the 2018 New York State 303(d) List of Impaired Waters due to pathogens and excess nutrients. Onsite wastewater sources represent the single largest contributor of nitrogen loading to every north shore bay and harbor in Nassau County. Excess nitrogen triggers hypoxia, harmful algal blooms, and fish kills—events that have become increasingly frequent and severe in recent decades. Long Island also sits atop a sole-source aquifer designated by the U.S. EPA, and nitrate trends in groundwater have been rising steadily over the decades as population and development have increased.

The average residential septic system discharges between 4.8 and 13.7 pounds of nitrogen per person per year (US EPA, 2002). With an average household size of 2.95 persons in Nassau and Suffolk Counties (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020), a single household can contribute between 14 and 40 pounds of nitrogen annually to groundwater. Conventional cesspools and deep leaching structures were never designed to remove nutrients. (See Figures 1 and 2.)

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Figure 1. Typical leaching pool cross-section commonly found on Long Island's North Shore. (Source: Suffolk County Department of Health Services)

Nassau County, New York's Nitrogen-Reduction Septic System Program

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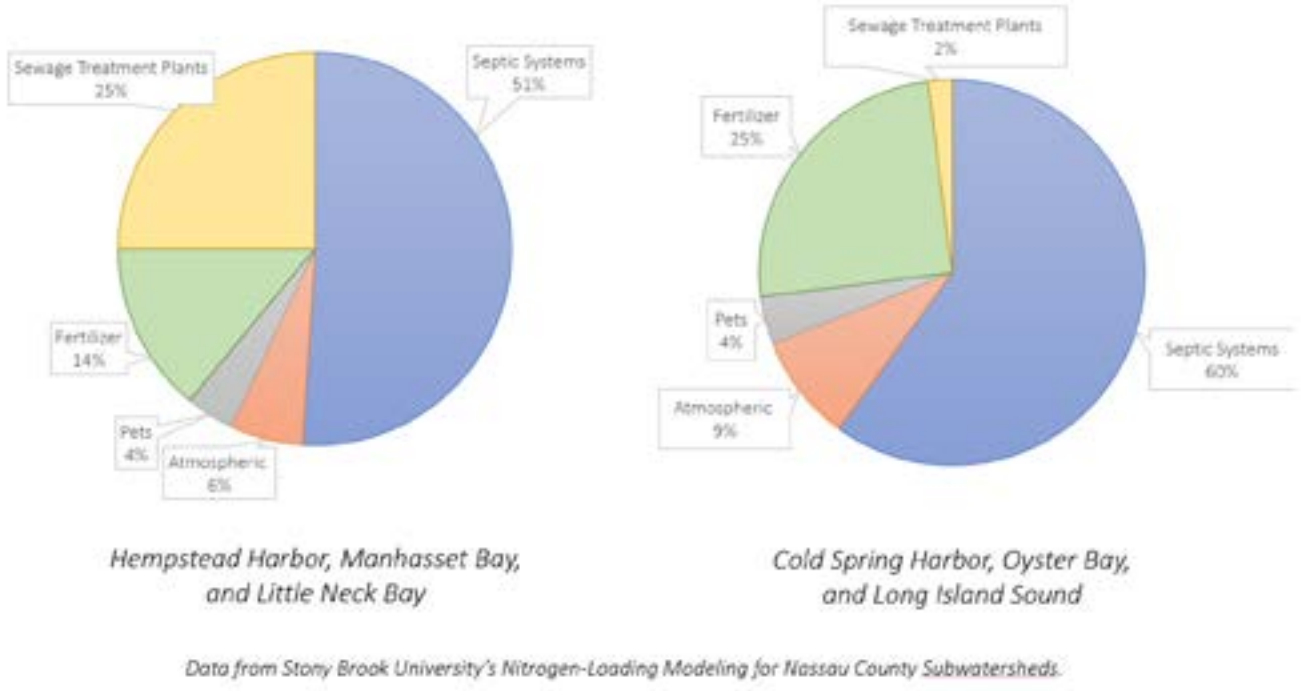

Figure 2. Pie charts showing relative nitrogen contribution from wastewater, atmospheric deposition, fertilizer, and pets to north shore water bodies in Nassau County. (Source: Nassau County Nine Key Element Watershed Plan for Nitrogen, 2022)

REGIONAL FRAMEWORK: LINAP and the Nine Key Element Watershed Plan

Nassau County's S.E.P.T.I.C. Program does not stand alone. It is embedded within a broader regional nitrogen-reduction strategy that has been building momentum for more than a decade. Suffolk County, which lies to the east and is approximately 75% unsewered, established the landmark Reclaim Our Water (ROW) initiative in 2014 and launched its Septic Improvement Program (SIP) in 2017. Suffolk's SIP has served as a critical proving ground for IA OWTS deployment at scale and, as of this writing, has facilitated over 3,000 installations—a benchmark that validates both the technology and the public's receptiveness to grant-assisted upgrades.

At the state level, the New York State Clean Water Infrastructure Act of 2017 established the State Septic System Replacement Program (SSRP), funded with $125 million and administered jointly by the NYSDEC and the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC). The SSRP provides $10,000 grants directly to counties, which are then passed through to eligible property owners. Over 70% of the first $15 million SSRP allocation was awarded to Long Island: Suffolk County received $10 million and Nassau County received $1 million in 2018. Subsequent allocations have continued to favor Long Island, underscoring the magnitude of the region's nitrogen challenge.

At the regional level, the Long Island Watershed Program (LIWP) coordinates nitrogen reduction strategies across Nassau and Suffolk counties. Nassau County itself adopted the Nine Key Element Watershed Plan for Nitrogen in 2022, which sets an ambitious goal of incentivizing the installation of 2,000 nitrogen-reducing IA systems across Nassau County's North Shore between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2032—using a financial incentive of $20,000 per system. The S.E.P.T.I.C. Program is the primary vehicle for achieving that goal.

The S.E.P.T.I.C. PROGRAM: Structure and Administration

Launched in May 2021, the Septic Environmental Program to Improve Cleanliness (S.E.P.T.I.C.) provides grants of up to $20,000 per eligible tax parcel for the replacement of

conventional cesspools and septic systems with nitrogen-reducing IA OWTS. The program is open to owners of single-family and two-family residences, not-for-profit organizations, small businesses, and local governments with existing sanitary design flows not exceeding 1,000 gallons per day (GPD). The program requires that properties be served by an existing septic system or cesspool and not connected to a public or private sewer system.

A Distinctive Administrative Model

One of the most notable features of the Nassau S.E.P.T.I.C. Program—and one that distinguishes it meaningfully from Suffolk County's approach—is its administrative structure. While Suffolk's SIP is administered through the County Department of Health Services, Nassau directed the Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District (District) to take the administrative lead. Soil and Water Conservation Districts are political subdivisions of New York State chartered to coordinate public and private resources in addressing local natural resource challenges. Their mandate is inherently collaborative and locally driven—qualities well-suited to a program that must navigate dozens of permitting jurisdictions, engage diverse community stakeholders, and interface with state and federal funding agencies simultaneously.

This decision has proven effective. The District manages day-to-day program operations — including application intake, website and portal management, contractor credentialing, contract and document tracking, and payment preparation — while drawing on the expertise of multiple Nassau County departments. The Department of Public Works leads on county-level S.E.P.T.I.C. requirements; the Department of Consumer Affairs ensures that participating contractors carry proper licensure and insurance; and the County Comptroller's Office processes grant payments. Administrative funding of approximately $300,000 per year supports District staffing and operations.

FUNDING: Building the Financial Foundation

The S.E.P.T.I.C. Program's financial architecture has evolved considerably since its 2021 launch. What began as a $5 million combined state-county initiative has grown into a multi-source funding program totaling more than $14 million.

The initial grant award of $10,000 per parcel—drawn entirely from SSRP funds—proved insufficient to offset the full incremental cost of nitrogen-reducing technology over conventional alternatives. Recognizing this barrier, the Nassau County Legislature approved an appropriation of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds in July 2021 to bring the total grant to $20,000 per parcel. This threshold has proven more effective at incentivizing homeowner participation, as it meaningfully reduces out-of-pocket costs in a market where IA OWTS installations typically range from roughly $21,000 to nearly $100,000 depending on site conditions.

Most recently, Nassau County received notice of a $3.78 million federal award through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), channeled through the Long Island Sound Study. This federal investment reflects national recognition of both the program's effectiveness and the broader significance of Long Island's nitrogen challenge to an estuary of national importance.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS: From Application to Installation

The S.E.P.T.I.C. Program was deliberately designed for simplicity. Acknowledging that many homeowners are unfamiliar with the design, permitting, and installation process for advanced onsite systems, the District created a streamlined, six-step workflow supported by online tools, dedicated staff, and a network of pre-qualified designers and installers. (See Table 1.)

Permitting: A Multi-Jurisdictional Challenge

One of the most complex aspects of operating the S.E.P.T.I.C. Program in Nassau County is its permitting landscape. The Nassau County

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Table 1. Nassau S.E.P.T.I.C. Grant Program Process at a Glance.

#	Step	Description
1	Application	Homeowner applies online at nassaucountyny.gov/SepticReplace
2	Provisional Approval	District reviews eligibility; owner has 30 days to execute Grant Agreement
3	Design	Owner retains PE or RA; design submitted to local jurisdiction within 60 days
4	Permitting	Local town/village issues permit; NYSDEC wetlands permits secured if required
5	Installation	Licensed installer completes work; Installation Completion Packet filed
6	Payment	Two-party authorization or full reimbursement; County processes within ~4 weeks

Nassau County, New York's Nitrogen-Reduction Septic System Program

(continued)

Department of Health regulates commercial sanitary systems with design flows at or above 1,000 GPD, but does not regulate individual replacement systems for single-family homes. That authority rests with the approximately 40 individual towns and villages on Nassau's North Shore, each of which may maintain its own requirements, forms, and inspection protocols. The District has worked to provide these jurisdictions with recommended construction guidelines, inspection checklists, and certification forms to encourage consistency—but standardizing practice across 40 independent permitting authorities remains an ongoing effort.

In 2023, the District achieved a notable breakthrough on this front: the Village of Oyster Bay Cove and the Village of East Hills became the first jurisdictions in Nassau County to formally adopt regulations requiring IA systems for substantial renovations and new home construction. This development signals a meaningful shift from purely incentive-based adoption toward regulatory mandates—a progression that those familiar with the arc of onsite wastewater reform will recognize as a critical maturation milestone.

Technology Acceptance and Quality Assurance

Rather than developing its own testing and certification program from scratch, Nassau County adopted a pragmatic approach: technologies approved for use in Suffolk County's SIP are automatically recognized for use in the Nassau S.E.P.T.I.C. Program. However, the District has established its own formal guidelines—publicly posted in February 2023 and reviewed by NYSDEC—that set submission requirements for new manufacturers and enforcement provisions for removing technologies that fail to meet the program's nitrogen effluent standard of 19 mg/L. The guidelines also establish minimum performance sampling requirements to ensure that approved technologies continue to meet standards over time.

RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT: The RME Framework and Maintenance

The deployment of advanced onsite systems at scale requires more than installation—it requires a durable framework for ongoing management, maintenance verification, and performance tracking. The New York State Department of Health Design Handbook for Residential Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems identifies the need for a Responsible Management Entity (RME) structure that encompasses goal definition, professional training, system tracking, maintenance verification, and enforcement authority. Nassau's S.E.P.T.I.C. Program has been building this infrastructure in parallel with its grant deployment.

At minimum, the program requires that each installed nitrogen-reducing system include a three-year manufacturer's parts warranty and a three-year maintenance agreement. Annual maintenance is required for the life of the system, and failure to comply can result in the clawback of grant funds received—a meaningful enforcement lever. The County's grant portal was built with basic maintenance tracking features from the outset; more robust RME and maintenance tracking tools have been identified as a needed next step.

PROGRAM RESULTS

The S.E.P.T.I.C. Program has demonstrated strong and growing demand since its launch in May 2021. The following table summarizes key program metrics as reported through May 20, 2026. (See Table 2.)

As of May 22, 2026, the program had received 789 total applicants. Two hundred and one (201) installations have been completed, with another ten (10) installations pending. A total of $4,020,000 had been disbursed to property owners or their contractors. Average total project cost for completed installations was $34,077.8, including Design and Engineering, yielding an average out-of-pocket expense of approximately $14,077.80— a substantial but manageable cost for most homeowners compared to doing nothing.

Project costs vary considerably based on site-specific conditions including depth to groundwater, lot size, slope, distance from the house, and depth of the existing building sewer. The cost of the 200 installations to date range between $16,729.88 and $94,930.00 The average design cost is $2,500 and the average installation cost is $31,577.80. These figures

Table 2. S.E.P.T.I.C. Program Metrics

Metric	Current Status
Total Program Funding Allocated	$11,840,000
Total Applicants	789
Completed Installations	201
Pending Installations	10
Grant Funds Paid Out	$4,020,000
Average Total Project Cost (Design and Installation)	$34,077.80
Average Out-of-Pocket Cost	$14,077.80
Average Grant Award	$20,000

underscore the importance of the $20,000 grant in making upgrades financially accessible across the full range of site conditions. (See Figure 3.)

Outreach has been a critical driver of application rates. The Program has partnered with The Nature Conservancy, the North Shore Land Alliance, and more than 16 partner organizations, conducting over 26 public presentations, 3 press conferences, 10 presentations to towns and villages, and 3 industry information exchanges as of the 2023 reporting period. Notably, high-profile events such as the County Executive's press conference announcing expanded funding generated the largest single surges in applications—a lesson in the power of executive visibility for grant program uptake.

LESSONS LEARNED AND PROGRAM EVOLUTION

The S.E.P.T.I.C. Program's first three years have been a period of continuous refinement. Several of the most significant programmatic modifications are worth highlighting, both as a candid account of the challenges Nassau County faced and as guidance for other jurisdictions contemplating similar programs.

Insufficient initial grant amount. The original $10,000 grant award

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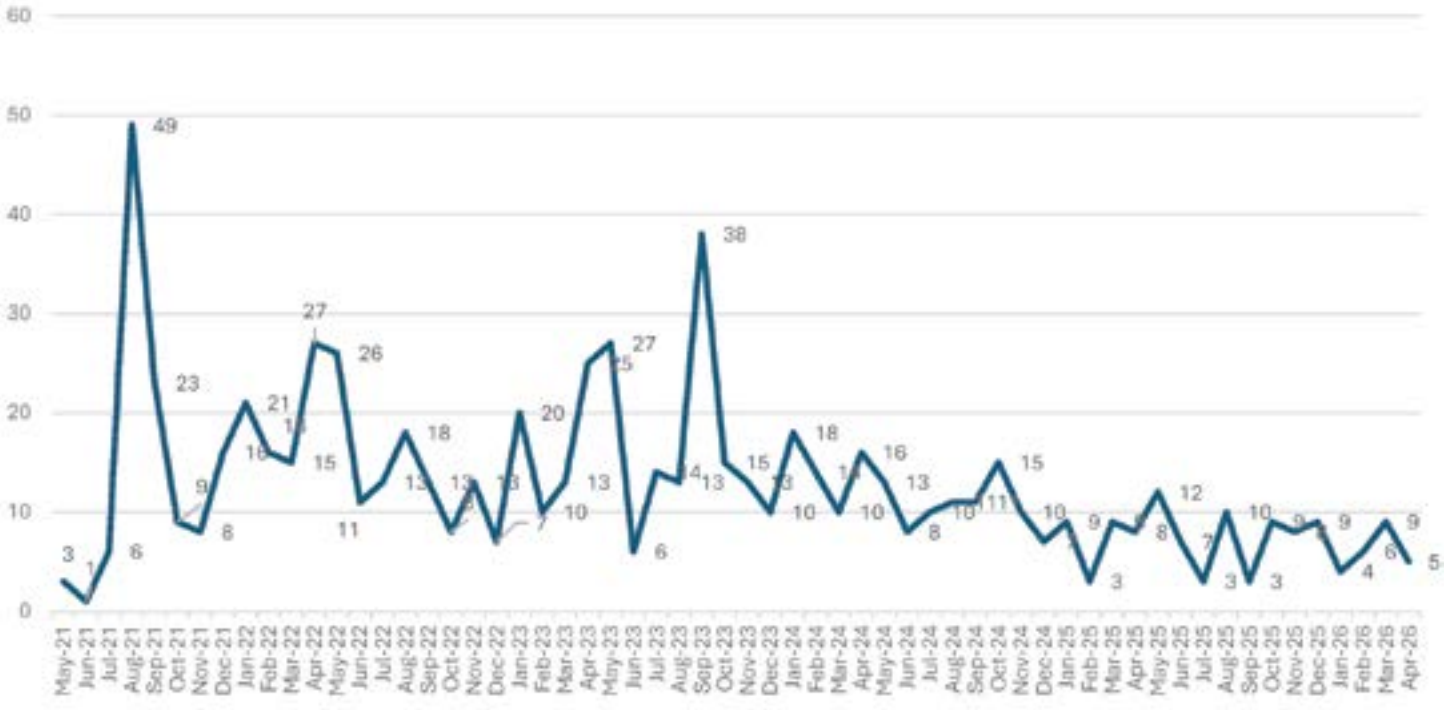

Figure 3. Nassau S.E.P.T.I.C. applicant timeline by month.

was not sufficient to meaningfully offset the incremental cost of IA OWTS technology over conventional alternatives. Recognizing that this threshold was a barrier to participation, the Nassau County Legislature promptly authorized ARPA funding in July 2021 to bring the total award to $20,000. This lesson—that the grant must be large enough to change the economics of the decision for the average homeowner—is fundamental for any jurisdiction designing a similar program.

Application complexity. Early versions of the application required detailed information about existing system condition and service history that most homeowners did not have readily available. This caused abandonment of incomplete applications. The District streamlined the application by removing questions that were not directly relevant to nitrogen-reducing systems and redistributing other data collection to appropriate later stages of the process.

Reimbursement-only barrier. The program initially operated on a pure reimbursement model, requiring homeowners to finance the full installation cost before receiving grant funds. Many prospective applicants, particularly early adopters, could not finance a $25,000–$70,000 project on that basis. The adoption of a two-party authorization process—through which grant funds are paid jointly to the homeowner and contractor, allowing the contractor to accept the grant as payment—significantly expanded the pool of eligible participants.

Multi-jurisdictional permitting friction. Nassau County's 40 individual permitting jurisdictions each have their own procedures for reviewing and approving onsite system designs—most of which were developed for conventional systems and had never encountered IA OWTS. The District produced guidance documents, checklists, and construction detail standards to assist building officials and is working toward greater uniformity. This remains one of the most persistent operational challenges for the program.

LOOKING FORWARD

The Nassau County S.E.P.T.I.C. Program stands at an inflection point. With more than $14 million in committed funding—including the recently announced federal BIL award of $3.78 million, the Program is positioned to accelerate toward the Nine Key Element Plan's goal of 2,000 installations by 2032. However, reaching that target will require sustained focus on several fronts.

On the regulatory side, the Village of Oyster Bay Cove's adoption of mandatory IA requirements for new construction and substantial renovations is an important precedent. Voluntary grant programs alone will not achieve the nitrogen reduction targets identified in LINAP and the Nine Element Plan—regulatory requirements that make IA systems the default for new and substantially renovated construction are a necessary complement to incentive-based programs. Advocacy for broader local adoption of similar ordinances is a near-term priority.

On the technical and administrative side, building out the RME infrastructure—including the maintenance tracking system, and the training pipeline—is essential to ensuring that the systems being installed today perform as designed over their full service lives. Grant programs that install systems without a robust long-term management structure risk undermining the water quality gains that justify the public investment.

Finally, the BIL federal investment reflects a broader national trend: after decades of under-investment in onsite wastewater infrastructure, federal policy is beginning to recognize the scale of the challenge and the effectiveness of grant-based upgrade programs in reaching the dispersed residential market that sewering programs cannot economically serve. Nassau County's experience—including both its successes and its hard-won lessons—offers a replicable model for counties and states across the country that are navigating similar terrain.

CONCLUSION

Since its launch in May 2021, Nassau County's S.E.P.T.I.C. Program has established itself as a model for how counties can mobilize state, local, and now federal resources to address the persistent challenge of legacy onsite wastewater infrastructure in unsewered communities. By coupling meaningful financial incentives with rigorous technology standards, a supportive administrative structure, and sustained outreach, the program has generated genuine momentum toward the County's

nitrogen reduction goals. Administered through the Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District—a design choice that has proven its merits—the program offers other jurisdictions a concrete, adaptable template for standing up their own nitrogen-reducing septic grant programs.

The work ahead—building the RME framework, standardizing permitting, expanding regulatory mandates, and deploying new federal funding—is substantial. But the foundation is solid, and the trajectory is upward. Long Island's bays, harbors, and aquifer have suffered nitrogen's consequences for generations. Programs like S.E.P.T.I.C. represent the clearest path available to reversing that trajectory, one system at a time.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The authors also thank the following organizations and agencies for their ongoing support: New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation; New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; New York State Department of Health; Nassau County Executive's Office; Nassau County Legislature; Nassau County Department of Public Works; Nassau County Department of Consumer Affairs; Nassau County Comptroller's Office; Long Island Clean Water Partnership; Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan; Long Island Regional Planning Council; The Nature Conservancy; The Long Island Sound Study; Manhasset Bay, Hempstead Harbor, and Oyster Bay/Cold Spring Harbor Protection Committees; and The North Shore Land Alliance.

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INDUSTRY NEWS

National Precast Concrete Association Names Jennifer Harrell, P.E., Director of Technical Specifications

The National Precast Concrete Association has created a new Director of Technical Specifications position and named Jennifer Harrell, P.E., to the role, strengthening NPCA's efforts to ensure precast concrete remains fairly represented in state and local infrastructure specifications.

Harrell will monitor, evaluate and help shape specifications nationwide, working with agencies, engineers, industry partners and NPCA members to support fair consideration of precast concrete in infrastructure projects. She will also provide technical insight to support policymaker engagement and legislative efforts affecting the precast concrete industry.

"Specifications determine whether our members get a fair opportunity to compete," said NPCA President and CEO Nick Rhoad. "Jennifer brings the technical credibility, agency relationships and industry experience needed to help NPCA engage earlier and more effectively in those decisions."

Harrell brings more than 25 years of experience in civil engineering, stormwater infrastructure, industry advocacy and business development. Throughout her career, she has worked to build partnerships with public agencies, private companies and industry stakeholders to advance resilient infrastructure solutions.

The new position was created to help NPCA develop and maintain a level playing field for precast concrete in specifications at the state and local levels.

"Specifications have a direct impact on whether precast concrete is considered in infrastructure projects," said Brad Chinery, NPCA vice president of technical services. "This new position gives NPCA a dedicated resource to identify specification challenges early, work with agencies, partners and members to address those challenges."

"I'm excited to join NPCA and support its members by bringing a technical perspective to specification discussions across the country," Harrell said. "Precast concrete plays a critical role in resilient infrastructure, and I look forward to working with agencies, engineers and industry partners to ensure specifications reflect the performance and value precast can provide."

Harrell started with NPCA on May 18.

SJE® Acquires Anchor Scientific, Expanding Its Portfolio in Water Sensors and Controls

SJE, Inc., the global industry leader in control systems, today announced the acquisition of Anchor Scientific, Inc., a manufacturer and distributor of switches and controllers for the water and wastewater industry. The acquisition expands SJE's portfolio of liquid level floats and related products, growing its presence within the municipal, commercial, and residential markets. The Anchor Scientific acquisition marks SJE's eighth acquisition since 2021 and first in 2026.

Founded in 1965 and run by brothers John and David Potter, Anchor Scientific has a proud history of manufacturing a wide range of float switches and other products from its facility in Long Lake, Minnesota. Anchor Scientific has grown into a trusted solution for float switches for the water and wastewater industry throughout the United States.

"Anchor Scientific is a great addition to the SJE portfolio of brands and products," said Bjorn Haldorsen, CEO of SJE. "Adding these products expands SJE's market reach, providing new customers with the SJE support and capabilities we are known for from our other SJE brands. We look forward to incorporating Anchor products into our Controls and Level Sensing Technology (CLT) division and helping them grow.

"As David and I looked to retire, partnering with SJE will allow our products to continue to serve the industry and grow under the SJE family of brands," said John Potter, president of Anchor Scientific. "We are excited for the future of our products under SJE."

"We are excited to add the Anchor Scientific products to the existing CLT offerings," said Ellie Mulcahy, President of CLT Division. "Anchor customers can expect the dependable performance SJE is known for, backed by our scale, innovation, and customer support, while offering these new products to our diverse customer base."

"SJE remains focused on delivering reliable control and level-sensing technologies and products for the water and wastewater industries," said Haldorsen. "With the Anchor Scientific acquisition, we can offer our customers a broader set of solutions to meet their needs."

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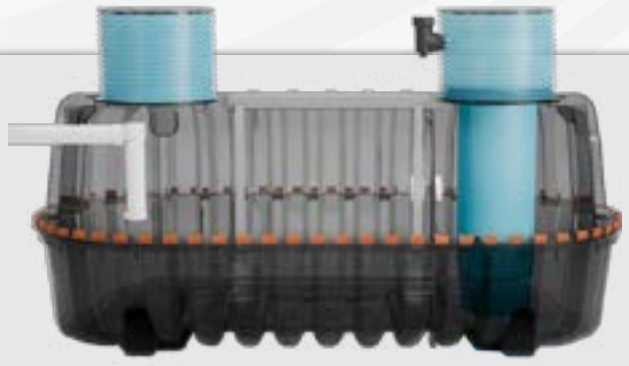

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