



Peconic Estuary PROGRAM

Homeowner Rewards Program



Mitigating storm water runoff into our bays can help improve water quality, reduce nutrient pollution, and help restore our natural resources.

The Peconic Estuary Program (PEP) is providing a unique opportunity for if you live within the Peconic Estuary watershed area. The PEP will provide financial rewards for homeowners who remove turf and pavement, and add native vegetation areas and/or rain barrels to their properties.

Homeowners can earn up to \$500 to offset the expense of installing green infrastructure on their properties including rain barrels, rain gardens, and native plant gardens. Water filtered through the sand and gravel within these gardens is dramatically cleaner when it enters our aquifers and storm drains. Rain barrels offer an opportunity to catch rainwater for reuse in gardens rather than running down paved surfaces and into storm drains.

Learn more about your local estuary and all its amazing bays, while improving your property and reducing pollution from entering local waters. Funds are limited and will be granted on a first come first served basis, so don't miss out!

Rain Gardens, Native Plantings, Rain Barrels



Land use is directly tied to the health of our bays!

Benefits of program to our marine ecosystems



Nutrients and Chemicals

Virtually everything that enters a storm water drain in the Peconic Estuary watershed empties directly into the bays- including excess fertilizer and pesticides from our yards. Harmful algal blooms and marine life die-offs have been linked to an excess of nutrients and other harmful chemicals in the Peconic Bay.



Habitat and Natural Resources

Clean water promotes a bountiful habitat for fish and shellfish. Ninety percent of our local fisheries depend on estuaries for a diverse number of commercially and recreationally important marine species. Improving water quality in the Peconic Bay is everyone's responsibility.

Details and How to Apply



#1 Submit the attached application and fertilizer use surveys

#2 Upon approval, construct your project

#3 Submit project for final approval

#4 Receive your rebate check up to \$500

(photo Google Earth)

Guidelines

Natural Vegetation and Rain Garden Installation

Replace pavement, turf grass, or lawn with native or "native compatible" plant species only
Minimum size of garden: 50 square feet Maximum rebate per garden installation: \$500/100 ft.

<http://www.raingardennetwork.com/build.htm>

Rain Barrel Installation

Install based on manufacturers guidelines or follow DIY instructions
Use appropriate mosquito protection attached to top of rain barrel
Minimum size: 50 gallons Maximum rebate per barrel: \$100/barrel or at cost

<http://www.rainbarrelguide.com/how-to-install-rain-barrels/>

Residents of Brookhaven, East Hampton, Riverhead, Southampton, and Southold Town ships who live within the Peconic Estuary watershed are eligible. Please contact the PEP staff office for further information.

Please send completed application and survey to Rewards@peconicestuary.org or Peconic Estuary Program Cornell Cooperative Ext. 423 Griffing Avenue Riverhead, NY 11901



Peconic Estuary Rewards Program Application Form
 (Please read guidelines before beginning application.)

Basic Information

Name:
 Project Address:
 Mailing Address (if different):
 Phone:
 Email:
 Building Type (e.g. single family residential):

Specific Project Description (Please provide all information requested below for each project you are proposing.)

1. Native Plant and/or Rain Garden Installation:

Dimensions:
 Describe location of project (e.g. back of house on east corner):
 Estimated cost:

2. Rain Barrel Installation:

Size of rain barrel:
 Location to be connected:
 Number of rain barrels:
 Estimated cost:

Project Cost (Estimate)

Total Estimated Cost:
 Rebate Requested:
 Rewards are available up to the maximum allowable, or the total cost per project, whichever is lower.

Example Project	Size	Unit Cost	Total	Allowable
<i>Example: Rain garden (50 sq. ft.)</i>	50 sq. ft.	\$250/50 sq. ft.	\$250	\$250
<i>Example: Rain Barrel (50 gl.)</i>	1 Barrel	\$100/Barrel	\$100	\$100
Totals				\$350

Project	Size	Unit Cost	Total	Allowable Reward
Totals				

Please provide a sketch of the proposed project here.

Disclaimer:

Peconic Estuary Program and its partners are not responsible for the future of the project, or any problems associated with the project. If an application is approved, the rebate will be dependent upon approval of receipts and invoices for appropriate supplies/equipment only. The applicant is responsible for ensuring that all projects meet all code requirements. By signing this application, you are verifying the accuracy of all above information, and asserting that you own the property or have permission from the property owner, and are confirming that you were not mandated to complete this project. You are providing your permission for the Peconic Estuary Program and it's partners to use photos of your property in relevant publications. You are also providing permission for a staff member to visit the property to physically observe the project site for documentation purposes. Your signature below also states that you will maintain the project for as long as possible and avoid the use of pesticides and fertilizer. Your willingness to keep a small PEP sign visible on your property throughout the next spring/summer/fall season is appreciated. By signing below, you are acknowledging the above disclaimer.

Please sign and date here:

X _____ Date _____



NFWF



Homeowner Questionnaire: Fertilizer & Pesticide Use

1. Please describe your landscaping practices. (I.e. just mowing, organic fertilizer/pesticides, conventional fertilizer/pesticides, etc.)

2. Approximately how many acres is your lawn? _____

3. How often do you fertilize your lawn? _____

4. What is the primary motivation for fertilizing your lawn?

5. What would motivate you to pursue an organic landscape?

6. Do you know the consequences of excess fertilizer/pesticides in marine waters? Describe.

7. Do you know the health risks associated with landscape pesticide use? Describe.

8. Are you aware of any town/county/state fertilizer bans? Describe.

9. Estimate your current yearly landscaping bill. (If you do it yourself, cost of supplies.)

10. What are you willing to pay for organic/reduced chemical landscaping per year? _____

Are you interested in maintaining an organic/reduced chemical lawn this year, and being surveyed for your opinion on results? Participants receive free lawn care advice from the Perfect Earth Project and opportunities for free lawn and landscape training sessions throughout the year.

Yes, I am interested. Email address and/or contact info: _____

No, I am not interested.