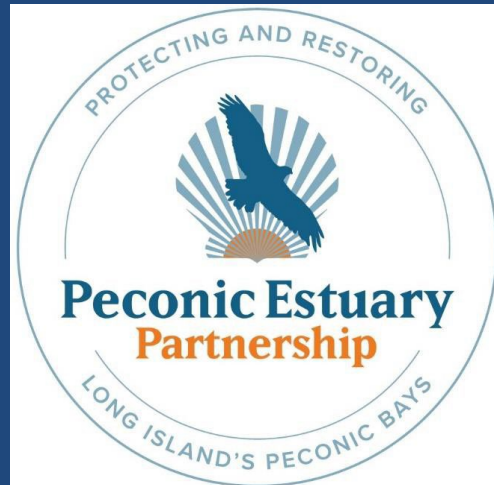




PEP (IIJA4-5Y)

Investment in
Infrastructure and Jobs
Act

The Workplan for the Peconic
Estuary Partnership (PEP) -
Suffolk County Submission

Approved by the Management
Conference March 19, 2025



Table of Contents

Workplan for PEP IIJA YR 4-5 – Suffolk County Submission	2
I. INTRODUCTION.....	2
II. SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS	3
III. WORKPLAN	4
Budget and Program Office Expenditures	4
Project 1: Suffolk County I/A Septic Replacement System Maintenance.....	5
Project 2: PFOS/PFOA	6



Workplan for PEP IJA YR 4-5 – Suffolk County Submission

I. INTRODUCTION

Peconic Estuary Partnership

The Peconic Estuary is one of 28 estuaries in the country designated by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as an “estuary of national significance” under Section 320 of the Federal Clean Water Act. The National Estuary Program (NEP) was established to protect and restore nationally significant estuaries threatened or impaired by pollution, development, and overuse. The Peconic Estuary was formally accepted as part of the NEP in 1992. Officially commenced in 1993, the Peconic Estuary Program includes numerous stakeholders, representing citizen and environmental groups, businesses and industries, academic institutions, and local, county, state and federal governments.

The PEP 2020 Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) guides the priorities of the organization and, as such, all projects and plans detailed in this workplan relate directly to the actions established to achieve our four goals: strong partnerships and engagement, clean waters, resilient communities, and a healthy ecosystem with abundant, diverse wildlife.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA or “bipartisan infrastructure law” or BIL) passed the U.S. Senate in August 2021 and the U.S. House of Representatives in November 2021. This legislation provides an additional \$132 million to the 28 NEPs over five years in addition to regular appropriations. For the PEP this results in an additional \$909,800 annually from FY22 to FY27 to carry out work that accelerates and more extensively implements the 2020 CCMP, ensures benefits reach communities and build adaptive capacity, and forwards the mission of the NEP as outlined in the Clean Water Act.

In 2025, the EPA administrator released five key priorities:

1. Clean air, land, and water for every American;
2. Restoring American energy dominance;
3. Streamlining permitting processes;
4. Making the U.S. the AI capital of the world; and
5. Potentially revitalizing the American auto industry.

These priorities build upon the core mission of protecting human health and the environment while also focusing on economic growth and technological advancement. The Peconic Estuary Partnership helps to fulfill the first key priority of clean water for every American. This IJA Year 4 and 5 workplan outlines a series of projects that seek to bring clean water to the residents of the Peconic watershed and further our mission outlined under section 320 of the Clean Water Act as a non-regulatory and non-enforcement entity.

This workplan outlines work to be carried out during the PEP FY25-FY27 Workplan cycles by Suffolk County. To differentiate the two plans that PEP and EPA will be managing for five years, and the deliverables associated with each of them, all funds under the recurring EPA NEP 320 funding will continue to be referenced by the fiscal year (“FY”) and the associated year (eg: PEP FY21, FY22, etc). Funds associated with IJA Years 1, 2, and 3 will use the ‘Bipartisan Infrastructure Law’ (BIL) acronym with the associated fiscal year number (eg: BIL22, IJA YR 4-5, etc). Years 4 and 5 are titled IJA 4 and 5.

Program Office personnel will be funded under the IJA 4 & 5 Stony Brook workplan for the administration related to all BIL / IJA funds. The work presented in this workplan will be carried out in line with the Suffolk County parameters to address water quality under their Reclaim Our Waters Initiative, delivering assistance grants under the Suffolk County Innovative Alternative Septic Replacement Program, and address the ongoing issue of PFAS and PFOA contamination to the upper Peconic watershed.

Overall Funding Sources

IJA Yr4-5

PEP IJA Yr4-5-Suffolk County

\$ 125,000.00*

PEP IJA Yr4-5 -Stony Brook

\$1,694,600.00

Non-Federal Match:

\$0.00**

Total:

\$1,819,600.00

**Work presented in this workplan are for the PEP IJA Yr4-5-Suffolk County award only. Work for the PEP IJA Yr4-5-Stony Brook Workplan will be submitted under a separate workplan.*

***Federal match is waived for the IJA to National Estuary Programs*

Resources Requested

The total IJA Yr4-5 funds requested in this grant to Suffolk County is \$125,000 for IJA Yr4-5.

II. SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This is the second award which Suffolk County has developed a workplan for under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). BILFY23 included \$50,000 for the establishment of a grant program to support the maintenance of Innovative/Alternative Septic systems that were updated under the existing Suffolk County Programs. Households that were awarded grants will be eligible to receive a PEP grant to continue maintenance on their I/A system for 2-3 additional years. Funds have not yet been expended on this award. The grant program will be launched in Summer 2025.

III. WORKPLAN

CCMP Goals

The use of these funds will be in accordance with the PEP Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan. The four pillars of this plan are: Strong Partnerships, Resilient Communities, Clean Water, and a Healthy Ecosystem; these elements are the foundation of PEP work and guide the Management Conference in decisions for project priorities. The CCMP lays out eight Objectives and 35 Actions that will guide PEP and our partners to address the challenges facing our watershed. Each workplan item identifies the CCMP Goal, Objective, and Action to which it pertains and can be found here: <https://indd.adobe.com/view/201ca273-3278-44ee-b907-a8308ec3d4a5>

Budget and Program Office Expenditures

Program Office Staff

No funds for the Program Office are requested under this award. Staff responsible for the administration of this award will be outlined in the IIJA Yr4-5 Stony Brook Award.

Table 1: PEP Budget for IIJA Yr4-5

	IIJA Yr4-5 Request	Notes
Personnel (+fringe)	\$0	
Travel	\$0	
Equipment	\$0	
Supplies	\$0	
Contracts or Sub-awards	\$0	
Other	\$50,000	PEP is working with Suffolk County to administer a grant program to support the maintenance of Innovative/Alternative Septic systems that were updated under the existing Suffolk County Programs. Households that were awarded grants will be eligible to receive a PEP grant to continue maintenance on their I/A system for 2-3 additional years. See details in project description below.
	\$75,000	PFOS/PFOA contamination in upper watershed
Total Direct	\$50,000	
Total Indirect	\$0	Suffolk County does not charge indirect costs
Total EPA IIJA YR 4-5 Funds Request	\$125,000	
Match	0	No match requirement IIJA Yr4-5
Total Project Cost	\$125,000	

IJA Yr 4-5 Workplan

This workplan includes all projects, which PEP will carry out Oct 1, 2025 to Sept 30, 2027 using IJA YR 4-5 funds.

IJA YR 4-5 Projects

Project 1: Suffolk County I/A Septic Replacement System Maintenance

New and Ongoing Project – *In 2017 Suffolk County initiated their septic replacement program. This allowed households with existing cesspools and septic systems to apply for a grant to install new low nitrogen systems. The existing grant program includes maintenance for three years of these new systems. These funds will add to the initial investment of 320 and IJA funding (\$50,000 BIL23 and \$45,000 PEPFY23) and be passed to Suffolk County to continue to administer these funds through their existing program to support continued maintenance of I/A systems for an additional 2-3 years for households participating in the existing Suffolk County program.*

Relevant CCMP Actions:

CCMP Objective E: Increase understanding of nutrient pollution in groundwater and surface waters and decrease negative impacts from legacy, current, and future nutrient inputs.

- Action 18: Implement science-based approaches for monitoring and reducing nutrient pollution.
- a. **Estimated Budget:** IJA Yr 4-5 funds: \$50,000 (\$50,000 BIL23 and \$45,000 PEPFY23)
- b. **Partners and their roles:** Suffolk County (lead and execute project), PEP (partner), Shelter Island Town (partner), Southampton Town (partner), East Hampton Town (partners).
- c. **Description:** Suffolk County has been successfully administering the Reclaim Our Waters Initiative since 2017 (<https://suffolkcountyny.gov/SIP.html>) which provides grants to homeowners to upgrade their existing cesspools and septic systems with new alternative low nitrogen systems. Nitrogen pollution in the grounds and surface waters of the Peconic watershed has been identified as a leading cause of pollution and HABs. The existing Suffolk County Program allows for additional grant funding for households. Suffolk County makes this determination and has successfully administered this program and identified these households. The existing program allows for three years of maintenance to new innovative septic systems. As we move into the future, the current three year, grant funded maintenance is coming to a close. PEP will fund an additional 3- 5 years of maintenance of these systems to support communities to nitrogen reducing septic systems in our estuary watershed.
- d. **Objectives:** The overarching objective of this project is to reduce nitrogen pollution in the watershed and provide support to households to enable them to achieve increased water quality.

- e. **Outputs and Deliverables:** Annual reporting of number of households and maps of areas that have been serviced by these funds.
- f. **Estimated Milestones:** Annual reporting.
- g. **Long Term Outcomes:** Increased reduction of nitrogen
- h. **Eligible IJA Actions:** Supporting water quality protection and restoration; Developing and implementing nutrient reduction strategies; Developing and implementing strategies to increase opportunities to recreate, enjoy, and benefit from surface waters and waterways, participate in ecosystem restoration, and engage in capacity-building or educational activities.

Project 2: PFOS/PFOA

New - PFOS, or perfluorooctane sulfonate, is a synthetic chemical belonging to the larger group of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). In 2024 EPA set enforceable Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) at 4.0 parts per trillion for PFOA and PFOS, individually in drinking water. This standard will reduce exposure from these PFAS in our drinking water to the lowest levels that are feasible for effective implementation. In the Peconic watershed data and information about these contaminants are not widely available. This project will aim to collate and disseminate PFAS data and information and inform management actions for human health and to establish next steps for bioaccumulation data gaps.

CCMP Objective F: Reduce current and future inputs of toxics, pathogens, and marine debris into groundwater and surface waters, and minimize their impacts.

- Action 20: Conduct analysis to understand the sources of toxic contaminants and implement measures to reduce their impacts.
- a. **Estimated Budget:** \$75,000
- b. **Partners and their roles:** Suffolk County (lead and execute project), PEP (co-lead partner), Riverhead Town (partner), communities in the upper Peconic River watershed.
- c. **Description:** Collate and disseminate PFAS data and information and inform management actions for human health and to establish next steps for bioaccumulation data gaps.
- d. **Objectives:** To assist Suffolk County in providing clean water to communities in the Peconic watershed.
- e. **Outputs and Deliverables:** Clean drinking water.
- f. **Estimated Milestones:** Annual reporting.
- g. **Long Term Outcomes:** Reduction of toxic contamination in ground and surface water
- h. **Eligible IJA Actions:** Supporting water quality protection and restoration.

Travel – No travel will be requested in this award