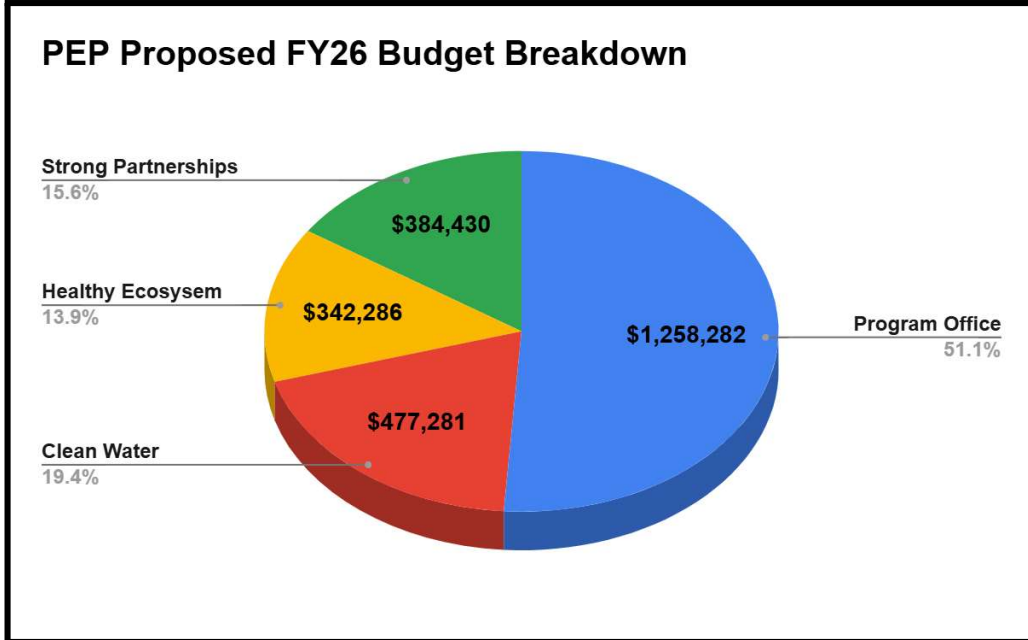




**PEP Proposed FY26 Budget Narrative**  
**Total Proposed \$2,462,279**



**Program Office: \$1,258,282**

Direct: \$1,041,495

Indirect: \$216,787

ITEM	TOTAL
Personnel (salary + 37.5% fringe)	<b>\$ 966,082</b>
<b>ITEM</b>	
Supplies (general)	\$ 8,547
Travel	\$ 34,546
Other	
Program Evaluation (vessel time/bus use/materials)	\$ 2,000
website	\$ 6,500
PEP database management	\$ 12,000
Printing	\$ 2,500
Association of National Estuary Programs	\$ 9,320
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$ 1,041,495</i>
<i>Combined indirect rates</i>	<i>\$ 216,787</i>
<b>Total Program Office</b>	<b>\$ 1,258,282</b>



Personnel includes: Executive Director, Outreach and Communication Manager, Natural Resources Program Manager, Grants Manager, Coastal Resilience Coordinator, and Nutrient Reduction Educator.  
*\*Funding for Grants Coordinator and Outreach Assistant previously approved under IJA Years 2-5.*

Supplies include: Items related to field gear (water proof boots, jackets, waders, etc), dive gear, outreach related items and document creation, eel elevator supplies, office supplies, etc.

Travel includes: Local travel for six staff members and conference attendances including ANEP Tech Transfer, EPA meeting in Washington DC, RAE Coastal Summit, CERF, and other conference travel.

Other: In April - June 2027, PEP will undergo a Program Evaluation and funds include vessel time and van use via Stony Brook and materials, annual website maintenance and management, PEP DataHUB maintenance including GIS services and tracking tool management. Printing Fact Sheets, posters for presentations and other outreach related printing. Annual dues to ANEP include communication and outreach services.



**Projects Total: \$1,203,997**

<b>PROJECTS</b>	
<b>Clean Waters</b>	
Water Quality Reporting	\$ 35,000
HABs	\$ 120,000
Nutrient Reduction Education	\$ 38,078
Update Clean Water website	\$ 14,490
USGS Stations	\$ 113,051
Tanbark Creek (3-Mile Harbor)	\$ 76,262
Old Dominion SGD	\$ 18,700
PBK Litter Keeper (Trash Trap)	\$ 51,700
Suffolk County NADP	\$ 10,000
<b>Healthy Ecosystem</b>	
Diamond Back Terrapin protection and restoration strategy	\$ 112,359
Town of EH clam sanctuary monitoring	\$ 45,500
Annual Alewife Monitoring	\$ 15,120
Seagrass NET monitoring	\$ 75,000
Seagrass aerial imagery	\$ 72,307
Monitoring of CWG eelgrass sites	\$ 22,000
<b>Strong Partnerships</b>	
CAST - permeable pavement	\$ 25,200
Outreach Videos	\$ 9,450
Paddle Event-Shelter Island	\$ 3,780
Mini Grant	\$ 95,000
South Fork Natural History Museum - education	\$ 33,000
PRFCT Earth- Living Lands Program & SB land management course with FoodLAB	\$ 88,000
Suffolk County Oyster Grower Support	\$ 130,000
<b>Total Projects</b>	<b>\$ 1,203,997</b>



### **Clean Water: \$477,281**

The total allocation for the eight projects listed below is **\$477,281**. This funding supports critical initiatives aimed at protecting and improving water quality through monitoring and pollution reduction. These amounts include indirect rates which vary from 10% to 26% depending on funding source.

The projects are:

- **Water Quality Reporting: \$35,000** – Annual reporting by the Gobler lab, disseminated via the PEP dataHUB and Water Quality app to guide management.
- **HABs (Harmful Algal Blooms): \$120,000** – Continued monitoring and research in PEP priority embayments, to be included in annual reports starting in 2026.
- **Nutrient Reduction Education: \$38,078** – Targeted outreach promoting septic/cesspool upgrades, Homeowner Rewards, and fertilizer reduction.
- **Update Clean Water website: \$14,490** – Annual maintenance and design to ensure project data, reports, and educational resources are current and accessible.
- **USGS Stations: \$113,051** – Continued support for three continuous water quality monitoring stations (Riverhead, Southold, and Shelter Island).
- **Tanbark Creek (3-Mile Harbor): \$76,262** – Fifth year of annual monitoring of the Permeable Reactive Barrier (PRB) at the headwaters of Three Mile Harbor.
- **Old Dominion SGD (Submarine Groundwater Discharge): \$18,700** – Identifying SGD areas by processing aerial imagery for a partial area of the Peconic Bays to locate potential eelgrass restoration sites and nutrient inputs.
- **PBK Litter Keeper (Trash Trap): \$51,700** – Deployment, servicing, maintenance, and waste disposal of litter capture devices to reduce marine debris (plastics and general trash) entering the Peconic Bays.

### **Healthy Ecosystems: \$342,286**

The total allocation for the projects listed below is **\$342,286**. This funding supports initiatives focused on the restoration and protection of vital habitats and key indicator species within the Peconic Estuary, contributing to overall ecosystem health. These amounts include indirect rates which range 10%-26% depending on the funding source.

The projects are:

- **Diamond Back Terrapin Protection and Restoration Strategy: \$112,359** – Development and implementation of a comprehensive strategy, including monitoring nesting sites, predator control, and public outreach, to protect and restore the local Diamond Back Terrapin population.
- **Town of East Hampton Clam Sanctuary Monitoring: \$45,500** – Capacity building for the town of East Hampton; providing AAUS dive certification training and survey technique training for annual monitoring and assessment of the clam sanctuaries in East Hampton to evaluate success.
- **Annual Alewife Monitoring: \$15,120** – Continued monitoring of alewife migration and populations at the Byron Young fish passage and Grangebél Park sites to assess the health of anadromous fish runs.



- **Seagrass NET Monitoring: \$75,000** – Implementation of the Seagrass NET (Network for Environmental Tracking) monitoring program to track the distribution, density, and health of eelgrass meadows across the Estuary.
- **Seagrass Aerial Imagery: \$72,307** – Acquisition and processing of aerial imagery essential for mapping and tracking changes in eelgrass extent. The PEP Seagrass Strategy calls for aerial imagery every three years.
- **Monitoring of CWG Eelgrass Sites: \$22,000** – Post-restoration monitoring of Community Watershed Grant (CWG) funded eelgrass restoration sites to assess success criteria and inform future restoration efforts.

### **Strong Partnerships: \$384,430**

The total allocation for the projects listed below is **\$384,430**. This funding is dedicated to strengthening partnerships, enhancing public engagement, and leveraging community-based initiatives to achieve PEP's goals. These amounts include indirect rates ranging from 10% to 26% depending on the funding source.

The projects are:

- **CAST - Permeable Pavement: \$25,200** – Partnership with the Center for Advocacy, Support and Transformation (CAST) to install permeable pavement and control stormwater runoff.
- **Outreach Videos: \$9,450** – Development of high-quality, short-form videos for social media and the PEP website, focusing on project highlights, priority issues (e.g., HABS, septic upgrades), and conservation action to increase public awareness and engagement.
- **Paddle Event - Shelter Island: \$3,780** – Support for a community paddle event on Shelter Island designed to increase local engagement, provide on-water education about the Estuary's ecosystems, and promote stewardship among residents and visitors.
- **Mini Grant Program: \$95,000** – Funding for PEP's annual Mini Grant Program, which provides essential seed money to local partners for small-scale projects throughout the Estuary.
- **South Fork Natural History Museum - Education: \$33,000** – Partnership with the South Fork Natural History Museum to develop and deliver hands-on educational programming
- **PRFCT Earth - Living Lands Program & Stony Brook Southampton Land Management Course with FoodLAB: \$88,000** – Collaboration with PRFCT Earth to expand the Living Lands Program throughout the estuary. Support the inaugural Earth School initiative of PRFCT Earth at Stony Brook University and FoodLAB to develop a professional course on ecological land management tailored to the Peconic watershed.
- **Suffolk County Oyster Aquaculture Support: \$130,000** - A grant program to support oyster growers to replace gear lost in Winter 2026. Supporting aquaculture in the Peconics supports continued bioextraction, the economy, and the CCMP (Actions 6, 18 & 27).