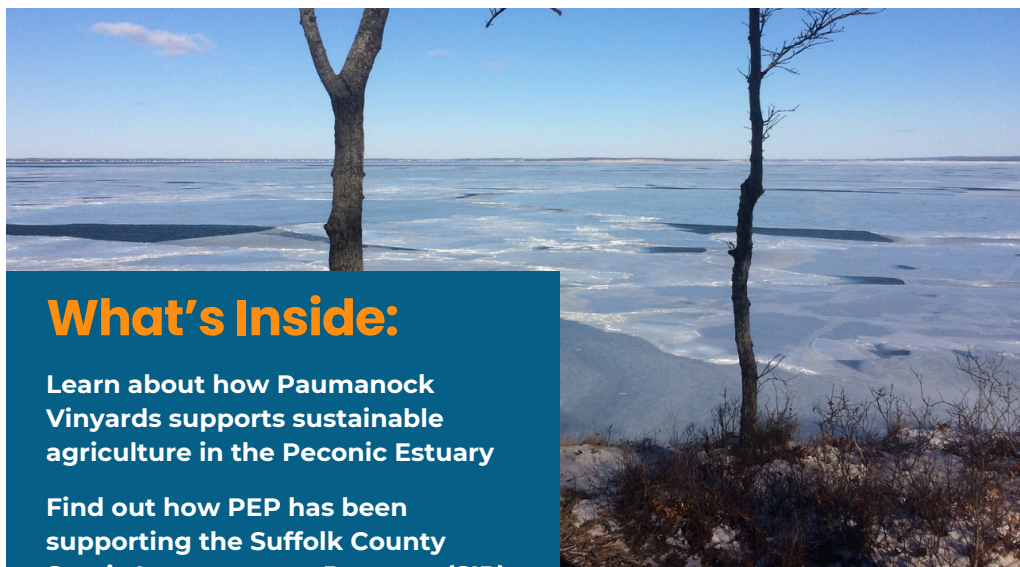


THE PECONIC ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP

NEWSLETTER



What's Inside:

Learn about how Paumanock Vinyards supports sustainable agriculture in the Peconic Estuary

Find out how PEP has been supporting the Suffolk County Septic Improvement Program (SIP), how you can get a grant to upgrade your outdated septic system, and why you should upgrade

Get outside this winter, get dates for our Winter Watershed Walks with the Peconic Baykeeper

Check out this years Mini Grant recipients

Explore PEPs new photo and video collection by Fish Guy Photos

See highlights from the Broad Cove Recreation Day hosted by The Peconic Land Trust

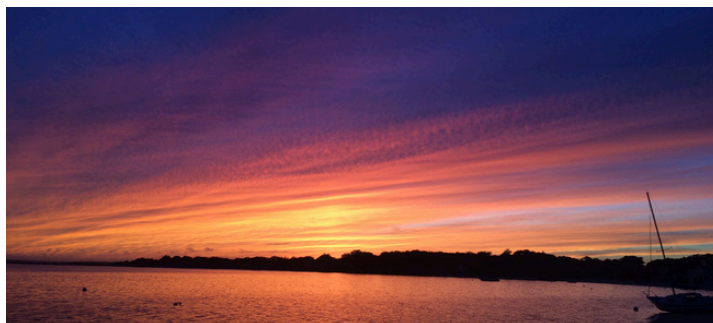
● About PEP

The Peconic Estuary Partnership (PEP) is a National Estuary Program that acts as a backbone organization, bringing together partners from different sectors around common goals. PEP staff and our partners support monitoring, research, collaboration, and education to address priority issues within the Peconic Estuary Watershed. PEP acts as a bridge between science and policy, ensuring that informed citizens, along with all other stakeholders, have a voice in the decision-making process.



Peconic Estuary
Partnership

PROTECTING AND RESTORING LONG ISLAND'S PECONIC BAYS



Project Updates

● Mini Grants

PEP launched the 2025 Mini Grant program to implement projects that assist in accomplishing PEP's 2020 Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) goal of Clean Waters for Ecosystem Health and Safe Recreation.

2025 PEP MINI GRANT AWARDEES:

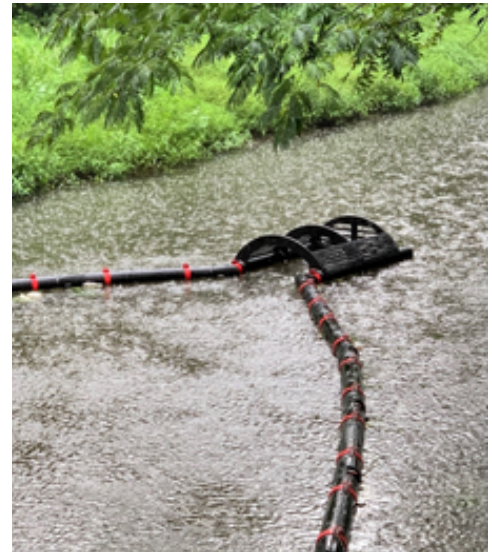
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, Agricultural Stewardship Program with Creating an on-farm weather monitoring network to improve agricultural stewardship

Ninevah Beach Property Owners' Association (NBPOA) with Green Infrastructure Installation: Stormwater Abatement at the East End of Harding Terrace (NB-2) to Protect Little Northwest Creek

Peconic Baykeeper with Peconic River Litter Trap

Read More on our website :

<https://www.peconicestuary.org/projects/minigrant/>



The Bandalong Bandit™ Litter Trap to be used for the Peconic Baykeeper Marine Debris Collection Mini Grant Project



Winter Watershed Walks

Join PEP and The Peconic Baykeeper for our annual Winter Watershed Walks!

This year's series features four new and different locations around the Peconic Estuary. We are hitting the trails again this winter to explore some of the beautiful locations around the Peconic Estuary. This is a great chance to learn more about the coastal habitats in the watershed.

For details and registration, scan [this QR Code!](#)



● East End Agriculture and Aquaculture Spotlight

Paumanock Vineyard

Established in 1983, Paumanock Vineyard is committed to practicing sustainability! They are Certified Sustainable by Long Island Sustainable Winegrowing and have been 100% solar powered since 2017!

Paumanok also operates two fully electric tractors, cutting down on diesel consumption. To reduce the carbon footprint of their wines, they have switched the majority of their production to the lightest glass bottles suitable for wine. For over 15 years Paumanok has offered its wine in kegs, eliminating at least one full tractor trailer of conventional bottles, cardboard boxes, labels, corks, tape, and plastic wrap from the waste stream. These are some examples of Paumanok's commitment being as sustainable as possible.

Scan the QR code to learn more about [Paumanock Vineyard](#)



Septic Improvement Outreach

PEP supports the Suffolk County Septic Improvement Program (SIP) with a variety of outreach efforts including presentations around the estuary educating residents on the importance of upgrading their outdated septic systems and on how they can get grant funding for financial assistance to upgrade.

● Why should I upgrade my outdated Septic System?

If you are a homeowner, replacing your outdated septic system or cesspool with an Innovative Alternative (I/A) Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) is one of the most impactful actions you can take to protect your health, your home, our environment, and our community. Outdated septic systems leach your wastewater, containing high levels of nitrogen, directly into the ground. This pollutes our groundwater, our soil source aquifer (where we get our drinking water from) and eventually our surface waters. Excess nitrogen leads to harmful algal blooms, degrades aquatic habitats, harms wildlife, leads to beach closures, and threats to human health. Installing an I/A OWTS can help reduce your systems nitrogen pollution by about 70%!

● How can I get financial assistance to upgrade?

The Septic Improvement Program (SIP) and the NY State Septic System Replacement Fund (SSRP) are grant programs you can apply for with a single application to help cover the costs of replacing your septic system with a IA OWTS. You can be eligible for a combined total of \$25k or 30k for low-middle income household. Homeowners in the towns of East Hampton, Southampton and Shelter Island may be eligible for an additional rebate program.

East Hampton + ~15k-20k | Shelter Island + ~12k-21k | Southampton + ~20k-25k.
(Southampton residence may also be eligible for yard or driveway restoration reimbursement)



[Visit the SIP Website](#)



FISH GUY PHOTOS

PEP has partnered with Fish Guy photos to capture photos and videos of some of our programs, events, field work and project sites around the Peconic Estuary.

[Explore The Collection](#)

Scan the QR CODE!



● Broad Cove Recreation Day

Broad Cove Preserve

Formally a duck farm, Broad Cove Preserve was purchased by the Peconic Land Trust and turned into a beautiful preserve to benefit the environment and the local community. PEP has partnered with PLT to provide funding for a permeable pavement parking lot, the creation of trails, educational signage, invasive species removals, and educational community events.

Recreation Day

Thank you to everyone who came out to the Broad Cove Recreation day! We had nature walks led by Mike Bottini, John Turner, Nancy Gilbert, Richard Wines, Tony Valderrama, and more, as well as activities for children, and tables with educational materials from different partner organizations! Thank you to PLT for hosting this wonderful day in the outdoors!

Happening Around The Estuary

● Join us at an upcoming event!

Winter Watershed Walk - Laurel Lake

January 10 10am, Southold

PEP CAC Albany Education Day - February 3

Winter Watershed Walk - Long Pond Greenbelt

February 13, 10am, Southampton

Winter Watershed Walk - Mashomack Preserve

March 14, 10am, Shelter Island

Check out our website calendar to register and for more upcoming events!



www.peconicestuary.org/events



Thank You To Our Partners

Thank you to all of our partner organizations for working with us to protect and restore the Peconic Estuary. We truly could not do this work without your collaboration!



First Winter Watershed Walk of the season!



Sea Turtle Release with the NY Marine Rescue Center



A Day In The Life



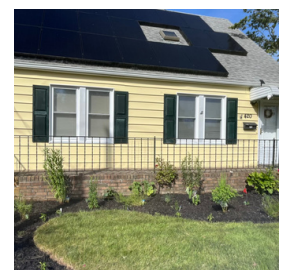
Management Committee CAST Field Trip



Septic Improvement Presentation



International Coastal Clean Up Day



Homeowner Rewards Program