



# PEP BIL23 (IIJA Y2)

Investment in Infrastructure  
and Jobs Act

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law  
(BIL) 2023 Workplan for the  
Peconic Estuary Partnership (PEP)  
Suffolk County Submission

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## Workplan for PEPBIL23 – 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 prepared for climate change, 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. President Biden signed it into law on November 15, 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 FY26 to carry out work that accelerates and more extensively implements the 2020 CCMP, ensures benefits reach disadvantaged communities, and builds the adaptive capacity of ecosystems and communities.

In 2021 Executive Order 14008 established the Justice 40 initiative which mandates that at least 40% of the benefits of certain federal programs must flow to disadvantaged communities. Federal investment in certain categories including climate change, clean energy and energy efficiency, remediation and reduction of legacy pollution, and the development of critical clean water and wastewater infrastructure are subject to Justice 40.

To meet the goal of the Justice 40 Initiative, Federal programs across the government will ensure that disadvantaged communities receive the benefits of new and existing Federal investments. The Environmental Protection Agency and the funds received by the National Estuary Programs under IIJA are subject to Justice 40 and will contribute to a historic level of investment to advance environmental justice.

This workplan outlines work to be carried out during the PEP FY23 Workplan cycle 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 will use the ‘Bipartisan Infrastructure Law’ (BIL) acronym with the associated fiscal year number (eg: BIL22, BIL23, etc). A BIL Long Term Plan for all five fiscal years and a PEP Equity Strategy will be completed no later than June 1, 2023.

Program Office personnel will be funded under the BIL23 Stony Brook workplan for the administration related to all BIL funds. The work presented in this workplan will be carried out in line with the Suffolk County parameters to address equity in water quality under their Reclaim Our Waters Initiative and will be applied to households in the Peconic watershed that qualify for the Low-Median Income and Median Income Households that qualify for assistance grants under the Suffolk County Innovative Alternative Septic Replacement Program

Overall Funding Sources

BIL23

<b>PEP BIL23-Suffolk County</b>	<b>\$ 50,000.00</b>
<i>PEP BIL23-Stony Brook</i>	<i>\$859,800.00</i>
Non-Federal Match:	\$0.00**
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$909,800.00</b>

\*Work presented in this workplan are for the PEP BIL23-Suffolk County award only. Work for the PEP BIL23-Stony Brook Workplan will be submitted under a separate workplan.

\*\*Federal match is waived for the first two years of implementation of the BIL funds; after this time, match waiver is contingent upon an approved Equity Strategy.

Resources Requested

The total BIL23 funds requested in this grant to Suffolk County is \$50,000 for BIL23.

**II. SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

This is the first award which Suffolk County has developed a workplan for under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). As such, there is no existing work to report on at this time.

### 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 administration of this award will be outlined in the BIL23 Stony Brook Award.**

**Table 1: PEP Budget for BIL23**

	<b>BIL23 Request</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Personnel (+fringe)	\$0	
Travel	\$0	
Equipment	\$0	
Supplies	\$0	
Contracts or Sub-awards	\$0	
Other	\$50,000	PEP will work 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 as a Low/Median and Median income household 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.
<b>Total Direct</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	
<b>Total Indirect</b>	\$0	Suffolk County does not charge indirect costs
<b>Total EPA BIL23 Funds Request</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	
Match	0	No match requirement BIL23
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	

### BIL23 Workplan

This workplan includes all projects, which PEP will carry out May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2025 using BIL23 funds.

### BIL23 Projects

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

New 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 be passed to Suffolk County so they can administer these funds through their existing program to support continued maintenance of I/A systems for an additional 2-3 years for households that qualify as Low/Median and median households under 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:** BIL funds: \$50,000
  - 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 that qualify as low/median and median income households under the Housing and Urban Development criteria. 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 2-3 years of maintenance of these systems for the households that qualify as low/median and median households under the existing program and continue to support communities in need and provide continuing equitable access 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 additional and equitable support to low income 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 in low income and environmental justice areas.
- h. **Eligible BIL Actions:** Supporting water quality protection and restoration; Developing and implementing nutrient reduction strategies; Developing and implementing strategies to increase opportunities for disadvantaged communities to access, enjoy, and benefit from surface waters and waterways, participate in ecosystem restoration, and engage in capacity-building or educational activities.
- i. **Justice 40 Relevance:** This project directly addresses the inequity of low income households having the ability to reduce nutrient pollution in their ground and surface waters. Continuing to support these communities of need will enable them to access grant funds to reduce nitrogen pollution on their property and empower them to support their neighbors to make similar decisions.