

# **Upgrading Decentralized Wastewater in Coastal Neighborhoods, North Kingstown, Rhode Island Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. What is the goal of the USEPA-SNEP funding opportunity?**

*The intent is to help meet the objectives of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) to "restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters." Nutrient pollution from traditional septic systems is a significant challenge that continues to threaten coastal ecosystems and watersheds throughout our region.*

**2. How will the funding be utilized in North Kingstown?**

*The town will be utilizing the funding to assist homeowners in upgrading their onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS) to innovative, nitrogen reducing treatment systems. This project will reduce nutrient pollution to protect the surrounding coastal ecosystems.*

**3. What does the town hope to accomplish locally?**

*The primary goal is to improve the water quality in the coastal resources along North Kingstown's shoreline. The project will enable the town to provide opportunities for new innovative onsite wastewater treatment systems to be installed in our community. The project enhances public education as to the importance of maintaining OWTS and how they impact the environment.*

**4. Does my property qualify for the funding?**

*This funding targets the four coastal neighborhoods of Poplar Point, Shore Acres, Mount View and the Hamilton Plat. If your property is located within one of these areas, and you have a cesspool or conventional septic system, your property qualifies.*

**5. How much funding is available for each property?**

*Funding is limited to \$15,000 per property.*

**6. Where can I get an application to request funding?**

*Applications are available online at <https://www.northkingstownri.gov/557/Wastewater-Management> . You can also pick up a paper copy at the Water Department located in the Municipal Office Building, 100 Fairway Drive.*

**7. What costs are reimbursable with funding?**

*Grant funding will offset the cost of upgrades or conversions of residential traditional septic systems to innovative, nutrient and nitrogen-reducing systems for components and/or installation.*

**8. What do I do once I apply and receive notice that my property qualifies?**

*Contact an RIDEM certified designer/installer and begin the design process to gain RIDEM approval for the OWTS. A list of ALL licensed designers and installers may be accessed here:*

*<https://dem.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkqbur861/files/programs/benviron/water/licenses/isds/pdfs/instlist.pdf> . Be*

*certain that the selected contractor is licensed to design innovative, nitrogen reducing systems. The proposed system must be on the RIDEM list of approved nitrogen reducing systems available here:*

*<https://dem.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkqbur861/files/2023-07/ialist.pdf> . A draft of the OWTS design must be shared with the town before submitting to RIDEM.*

**9. What is the process for requesting reimbursement?**

*Once the OWTS is designed, approved and installed, the town will visit the site to confirm system installation. Property owners are required to submit documentation invoices and proof of payment. The town will make payment to the applicant upon issuance of the Certificate of Conformance by RIDEM.*

**10. Who can I contact if I still have questions?**

*Alan Austin, Deputy Director of Water Supply, (401) 294-3331 Ext. 233.*