



# PRESS RELEASE

From The Office Of  
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
STEVE BELLONE

H. Lee Dennison Building • 100 Veterans Memorial Highway  
P.O. Box 6100 • Hauppauge, NY 11788 • (631) 853-4000

[f/SteveBellone](#)

[@SteveBellone](#)



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**Contact Information:**

**Vanessa B. Streeter, Justin Meyers**

**631-853-7801 (office), 516-967-2345**

**631-885-2298 (cell)**

## **Suffolk County Announces Lottery for Free Advanced Wastewater Treatment Systems for Single Family Homeowners**

*19 Homeowners to Receive Free Installation, Monitoring & Maintenance System to Reduce Nitrogen Pollution, Enhance Water Quality*

**(SUFFOLK COUNTY, NY – October 16, 2014)** – On October 15, Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone announced details of the County’s state-of-the-art septic demonstration pilot program. He was joined by Suffolk County Legislator Al Krupski, Suffolk County Departments of Health, Public Works and Economic Development and Planning along with environmental advocates and wastewater experts

The County will be conducting a lottery to select 19 homeowners to receive a free advanced wastewater treatment system that greatly reduces nitrogen contamination – including free installation, monitoring and maintenance for five years.

The pilot program is part of Suffolk County’s *Reclaim Our Water* initiative, a comprehensive plan to improve the County’s water quality, restore the region’s natural storm barriers by eradicating nitrogen pollution by means of sewerage targeted areas and implementing advanced on-site wastewater treatment systems. Residents are encouraged to log onto [www.suffolkcountyny.gov](http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov) to fill out an application. Applications are due November 14, 2014. After a thorough screening process, a random drawing will be conducted to select the 19 qualified homeowners.

“Suffolk County has more than 360,000 unsewered homes, creating excess and unhealthy amounts of nitrogen in the ground due to failing, unmaintained and excessive loadings from

septic systems and cesspools,” said County Executive Steve Bellone. “Advanced wastewater treatment systems for homeowners are a vital part of the solution to our water quality crisis. While this is not the single solution, this is one of the initiatives we are doing to *reclaim our water* here in Suffolk County.”

Suffolk County Legislator Al Krupski said, “I am surprised and gratified to see this forward thinking in my lifetime. I want to thank County Executive Steve Bellone, the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning and the Departments of Health and Public Works for bring wastewater treatment in Suffolk County into the modern era.”

“This program initiates a critical component in the fight to protect our island’s future,” said Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director of Citizens Campaign for the Environment. “Upgrading our cesspools and septic systems will allow us to begin the essential journey to restoring the quality of our drinking water supply and protecting our beaches and bays from the increasing damage caused by nitrogen from sewage. Understanding which wastewater systems work best on Long Island will allow us to make informed and beneficial choices when we need to replace a failing system. Congratulations to County Executive Bellone in advancing this program and moving us forward on a path of protecting our waters and making Long Island sustainable.”

The 19 systems were donated by four national manufacturers, BUSSE Green Technologies, Norweco, Orenco Systems and Hydro-Action Industries, all of whom have extensive experience across the country, as well as Europe, in removing excess nitrogen from residential and commercial properties. The advanced wastewater treatment systems are valued at up to \$15,000 per system.

“Norweco is honored to participate in Suffolk County’s residential demonstration program. We look forward to demonstrating the capabilities of our advanced wastewater treatment systems. Norweco is committed to providing today’s answer for the protection of tomorrow’s environment and we are confident that our products will help restore the health of Long Island’s surface waters,” said Scott T. Hetrick, Norweco Vice President of Sales.

“Over the past 30 years, Orenco has participated in numerous demonstration projects all over the world for our nutrient-reducing AdvanTex Wastewater Treatment Systems, and we greatly value the relationships and information that comes from them,” said Nicholas Noble, Orenco Systems Inc. Government Relations Manager. “We are excited to help get this project under way by contributing one of our systems to the people of Suffolk County. We’re confident we can help to reduce nutrient inputs to the Long Island Sound, in a sustainable, energy-efficient way.”

“BUSSE New York is excited to have been selected to participate in the Innovative On-Site Wastewater Residential Demonstration Program in Suffolk County. We look forward to participating in the program, and having an opportunity demonstrate the system’s capabilities in the County,” said by BUSSE Green Technologies in a statement.

“Hydro-Action is committed to advancing the environmental health of our nation. We are pleased to have been chosen as one of the pilot manufacturers for the Suffolk County demonstration. Hydro-Action will vow due diligence in order to gain the confidence that our system is an

efficient product capable of treating wastewater to well beyond safe limits. Making these changes in our environment will insure a healthy and safe place for our children to grow up,” said Seth Davis, Hydro-Action Approvals Manager.

The firms will also work with Suffolk County officials and the County’s Department of Labor, Licensing and Consumer Affairs throughout the process to develop an extensive job training program to bring more septic and wastewater-oriented employment opportunities to Suffolk County. In addition, the program will help to create a homeowner awareness program to provide residents information on proper septic system maintenance protocols in an effort to reduce nitrogen levels.

The majority of the advanced wastewater treatment systems were observed by county experts on a tour of septic programs conducted in other states in the Northeast. The County is modeling its homeowner education program on the very successful program that has been in place in Rhode Island over the past fifteen years. For more information on Suffolk County’s septic demonstration program, as well as the detailed report on its septic tour, log onto [www.suffolkcountyny.gov](http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov).



Representatives from the advanced waste water septic companies participating in residential lottery program, Glynis Berry, Peconic Green Growth, Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director of Citizens Campaign for the Environment, County Executive Steve Bellone, Legislator Al Krupski



Members of the Suffolk County Departments of Health, Economic Development and Planning, Representatives from the advanced waste water septic companies participating in residential lottery program, Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director of Citizens Campaign for the Environment, County Executive Steve Bellone