

## Peconic Estuary Program - Top Priorities

Established pursuant to Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (adopted November 15, 2001)

Note: Unless otherwise noted (e.g., "base program", "funding secured"), additional funding is required to implement these priorities.

Issue	Priority	Responsible Entities	Associated PEP CCMP Actions	Approximate Cost
<b>Brown Tide</b>	Continue to fund brown tide research	<u>Federal, state and county governments</u>	BT-1	\$150,000/yr
<b>Nutrients</b>	Implement a multi-faceted nitrogen management program:	<u>PEP MC</u>	N-1 through N-5; HLR-1/2	Base Programs
	a) Continue to fund and implement the Long Island Agricultural Stewardship Program	Implement: <u>CCE, SCSWCD, USDA, NYSDA&amp;M</u> , with farm community Fund: Federal, State, County and Local Govt.; farming community	N-5	\$1.8 million (\$350,000/yr for staff; program development: \$250,000-\$500,000; Implementation: \$1 million annually; Long term: TBD)
	b) Implement a fertilizer pollution reduction program for turfgrass (e.g., comprehensive regulatory/voluntary program, including: application timing restrictions; educational retail signage; required training for licensed applicators; record keeping and reporting for applicators/retailers; leadership on public lands; education and outreach.	Implement: <u>Suffolk County, PEP, CCE, landscapers, homeowners</u> ; Fund: <u>Suffolk County, PEP CAC</u>	N-5, POE-4.1	\$190,069 (\$153,500 for residential fertilizer reduction program and golf course nitrogen plan development; \$36,569 for turfgrass training course and local outreach)
	c) Implement the PEP Nitrogen Management Challenge for Golf Courses.	<u>PEP</u> with Cornell University, USGA, golf course owners & superintendents	N-5	
	d) Develop and adopt an on-site disposal system strategy (e.g., incentive-based programs, upgrade programs, maintenance programs)	<u>SCDHS</u> with PEP	N-5	Base Programs; Contractor assistance: \$200,000
	e) Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs): Comply with permit limits and pursue beneficial reuse of effluents. Implement project at Riverhead STP and investigate additional opportunities.	<u>NYSDEC, PEP, Riverhead Sewer District, other local governments, STP operators, NYSEFC</u>	N-4	TBD
	f) Reduce atmospheric deposition through full implementation of the Clean Air Act and other local programs; investigate establishment of a dry deposition station on Long Island	<u>USEPA, NYSDEC</u> , citizens	N-5	
	g) Investigate the feasibility of a selective sales fee on fertilizer products	<u>PEP CAC, Suffolk County</u>	N-5	Base Programs
<b>Habitat and Living Resources</b>	Protect and restore eelgrass through finalizing a Peconic Eelgrass Management Plan	<u>NYSDEC, local governments, CCE, TNC, PEP NRS</u>	HLR-1, HLR-6	Plan Development: Base Programs; Implementation: \$100,000/yr; Restoration: \$2,500,000
	Develop and implement a strategy to minimize shoreline hardening structures that results in no net increase of such structures and protects natural shorelines	<u>PEP MC, TNC, NYSDEC, local governments, PEP NRS, USEPA, NYSDOS</u>	HLR-2	
	Restore habitats, including projects identified in the habitat restoration plan, wetlands, and fish passage	<u>PEP NRS, NYSDEC, NYSDOS, SCDHS, CCE, local governments, TNC</u>	HLR-7, HLR-8, HLR-9	Implementation: \$59 million over 10 years
	Implement a comprehensive invasive species management initiative, including research, public outreach, and removal/eradication	<u>PEP, TNC, NYSDEC, PEP NRS</u>	HLR-8	TBD
	Pursue shellfish restoration projects, including spawner sanctuaries	<u>PEP, TNC, CCE, local governments, PEP NRS</u>	HLR-8	\$1,000,000/yr
	Develop and implement an initiative to protect and restore vegetative buffers	<u>TNC, PEP MC, PEP NRS</u>	HLR-2, HLR-8	Base Programs?
	Fund priority ecosystem investigations identified in the Living Resources Research, Monitoring and Assessment Plan	Secure Funding: <u>PEP CAC, Federal and State representatives, PEP NRS, with coordination from TNC</u>	HLR-16	Complete Benthic Mapping: \$800,000+ ; Other investigations: \$200,000/yr
	Hold a Dredging Meeting	<u>PEP MC, NYSDEC, PEP NRS, USACOE, NYSDOS, local governments, SCPD, SCDPW, USEPA, AMI</u>	HLR-3	Funding secured

<b>Pathogens</b>	Manage Stormwater Pollution		P-4.6	
	a) Implement the subwatershed management plans (e.g., model ordinances, abatement projects, etc.) and develop new plans	<u>PEP MC</u> , State and local governments	P-4.6	Implement 4: \$2.8million; Develop new: \$1.2million
	b) Focus efforts in watersheds of impaired waterbodies; support MS4 permit compliance; Public education and outreach  Continue public outreach campaign on the Vessel Waste No Discharge Area in the Peconics	<u>PEP, State, county and local governments</u>  <u>PEP Program Office</u>	P-7	Base Programs
<b>Toxics</b>	Reduce loadings of pesticides [a-d are best accomplished by incorporating toxics into the nitrogen reduction strategies (parts a and b under Nutrients)]			
	a) Pursue development/establishment of the LI Pesticide Management Plan	<u>NYSDEC, NYSDOS, NYSDA&amp;M, NYSDOH</u>	T-4.1	\$150,000 (preliminary estimate)
	b) Plan and carry out "Clean Sweep" and STOP programs	<u>SCSWCD, USDA-NRCS, USEPA, PEP, CCE</u> ; local governments	T-4.2	Stop Program- Base Programs; Clean Sweep- \$150,000 (2 events)
	c) Develop and implement a comprehensive agricultural pesticide management strategy	<u>CCE, SCSWCD, USDA-NRCS, NYSDEC</u>	T-4.5, T-4.6	\$1,515,000/yr
	d) Fund and initiate aggressive public outreach and education	<u>PEP CAC</u> , County, State	POE-5.1, 5-2, 5.3	\$100,000/yr
	Reduce the use of insecticides used for mosquito control to the maximum extent practicable, while adequately protecting human health and without detriment to the environment.	<u>SCDPW, SCDHS, NYSDEC, NYSDOH</u>	T-7.3, HLR-5.3, 5.4, HLR-8.1	
	Continue remedial and monitoring efforts at sites of concern in Peconic Estuary	<u>USEPA, NYSDEC</u>	T-2.5	Base Programs
<b>Critical Lands</b>	Protect priority open spaces through direct acquisition and other means	<u>TNC, PEP MC, SCPD, State, County and Local governments</u>	CLPP-5, CLPP-6	TBD
	a) Monitor success of acquisition programs	<u>PEP NRS, SCPD, TNC</u>	CLPP-5	
	b) Establish, implement, and enforce vegetation protection requirements	<u>TNC, Local governments, PEP MC</u>	CLPP-5	
<b>Financing</b>	Obtain and effectively utilize annual appropriations from the National Estuary Program, Environmental Protection Fund, and Suffolk County General ¼% Sales Tax Program for priority projects	<u>NYSDEC, SCDHS, PEP MC</u>	F-2.2, F-2.3	Base Programs

Note: Underlined responsible entity denotes the "lead" agency or group for that specific action.

Acronyms:

PEP - Peconic Estuary Program  
PEP MC - PEP Management Conference  
PEP TAC - PEP Technical Advisory Committee  
PEP CAC - PEP Citizens Advisory Committee  
PEP NRS - PEP Natural Resources Subcommittee  
USEPA - United States Environmental Protection Agency  
USACOE - United States Army Corps of Engineers  
USGA - United States Golf Association  
CCE - Cornell Cooperative Extension  
AMI - Association of Marine Industries  
TNC - The Nature Conservancy  
MS4- Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

NYSDOH - New York State Department of Health  
NYSDA&M - New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets  
NYSDOS - New York State Department of State  
NYSDEC - New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
NYSEFC - New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation  
SCDHS - Suffolk County Department of Health Services  
SCPD - Suffolk County Planning Department  
SCDPW - Suffolk County Department of Public Works  
SCSWCD - Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District  
USDA - NRCS - U.S. Dept. of Ag. - Natural Resources Conservation Service