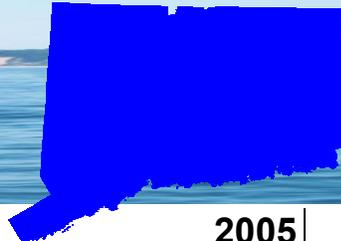


# Connecticut

## BUREAU OF WATER MANAGEMENT LONG ISLAND SOUND RESTORATION ACT AID TO DISTRESSED COMMUNITIES



2005

For nearly 20 years the State of Connecticut has been involved with identifying and addressing nitrogen pollution to Long Island Sound. As a partner in the Long Island Sound Study estuary program, CT has been committed to reducing the amount of nitrogen compounds in the discharges of sewage treatment plants (STPs) across the state. In 2001 the Long Island Sound Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) was approved by EPA and initiated by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to include achieving a reduction in nitrogen discharged to Long Island Sound by 58.5 % by 2014. A General Permit for nitrogen has been issued to 79 municipal Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs). However, upgrading municipal sewage treatment plants to remove nitrogen requires intensive planning and design and can be quite expensive.

Even with traditional funding sources, some CT municipalities needed additional financial assistance. In November 2000 the federal government passed the Estuaries and Clean Waters Act of 2000. The Connecticut Congressional delegation contributed legislative language creating Title IV, which was added to the Act and is known as the 'Long Island Sound Restoration Act' (LISRA). The Act amended Section 119 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (FWPCA) making it a priority to provide federal funding to distressed communities for STP upgrades. A distressed community is any community that meets physical and economic distress thresholds established by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. In Connecticut, the Department of Economic and Community Development has identified 28 communities as 'distressed'.

### Towns & Districts Benefiting from LISRA Grants

Ansonia	New London
Bridgeport	Norwich
Bristol	Plainfield
Derby	Plainville
East Hartford	Plymouth
Enfield	Putnam
Groton	Sprague
Griswold	Stafford
Hartford	Thompson
Killingly	Torrington
Mattabasset District	Waterbury
Meriden	West Haven
Naugatuck	Winchester
New Britain	Windham
New Haven	Windsor Locks

LISRA authorizes up to \$40 M per year in federal assistance to LIS distressed communities for the years 2001 thru 2005. In 2001 through 2004 the USEPA has awarded Connecticut a total of \$7.8 million to assist these distressed communities for nitrogen removal upgrades to their STP. An additional \$1.9 million is expected in 2005. The money is available to distressed communities for planning and design costs leading to nitrogen removal upgrades. Municipalities may apply for up to 50% of planning and design costs covered by federal grant and the remaining 50% in State matching grants and loans on a first come first serve basis. To date \$3.51million in combined grants have been given to 18 municipalities for planning projects and \$4 million is committed to twelve distressed communities for STP design grants. With committed support from LISRA through 2005, LIS and distressed communities can look forward to more help in reducing nitrogen levels in the watershed.

Connecticut's Clean Water Fund (CWF) is the state's environmental infrastructure assistance program. Established in 1986 to provide financial assistance to municipalities for planning, design, and construction of wastewater treatment projects, the fund has grown to be a useful tool through which the LISRA grant, other federal grants, and state bond money designated for these projects is administered. The CWF provides a combination of grants and loans to municipalities that undertake water pollution control projects at the direction of the DEP.



For more information on LISRA and the distressed community program, contact Bill Hogan at 860-424-3753 or by e-mail at [william.hogan@po.state.ct.us](mailto:william.hogan@po.state.ct.us).