



NEW YORK STATE ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARD CASE STUDY

Town of Islip Boat Pumpout Program – Honored for an innovative, cost-effective solution to water quality concerns in the Great South Bay

SUMMARY

The Town of Islip Boat Pumpout Program was awarded in 2009 as an innovative and convenient solution to a water quality issue. The program began in 2006, with partial funding from the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation. Prior to Pumpout Boat Program, there were only a few pumpout facilities available to boaters in the Great South Bay. These were sited at various marinas. Private marinas tend to service only their patrons, while public marinas often experience significant wait times and frequent equipment failures. Considering these limitations, boaters often were discharging boat sewage into the bay. This was contributing to shellfish contamination, beach closures and degraded water quality. In contrast, the pumpout boat was made available to boaters “as needed” without fees or long wait times.



BENEFITS

The pumpout boat collected 1,730 gallons of sewage from the boating public during its first season. This was less than expected due to an abbreviated season and a delay in the delivery of the boat. In 2007, 19,440 gallons of sewage waste collected. And, in 2008, almost 26,000 gallons of sewage was collected from boats in the bay. The Town of Islip demonstrated its commitment to environmental excellence and to the continued improvement of water quality in the Great South Bay.

KEY METRICS

- Collected nearly 47,000 gallons of boat sewage in the 2006-2008 boating seasons.
- Preventing sewage from being discharged into the Great South Bay has a direct environmental benefit.

ABOUT THE TOWN OF ISLIP

- Population is approx. 335,000
- One of ten towns in Suffolk County and is located on the South Shore of Long Island
- Covers about 163 square miles and includes part of Fire Island and the Great South Bay

NYS Environmental Excellence Award:

Annual recognition of outstanding innovative and sustainable projects or programs and unique partnerships that are improving and protecting New York State’s environmental resources and contributing to a stronger economy

A MODEL OF EXCELLENCE

- Designed a vessel to collect boat sewage from the boating public in the Great South Bay
- Convenient and no-cost solution for boaters
- Encourages boaters to pump out rather than discharging sewage into the water
- Contributes to a healthier environment for recreation and for marine life

HIGHLIGHTS

The mobile nature of this program results in greater convenience for boaters, which bolsters both program participation and marketability. The Clean Vessel Assistance Program (CVAP), under whose auspices the Boat Pumpout Program operates, is administered by the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC). The EFC provided partial funding to the town and increased the reimbursement rate for the 2008 season—a testament to the EFC's recognition of the program's success.

The vessel was designed specifically to pump, hold and transport waste. Rather than requiring boaters to interrupt their day's activities to pump, the pumpout boat visits the boaters. Vessel mobility also means the collected sewage can be carried to various disposal locations, so the vessel is not limited by the amount of waste it can hold.

FUNDING

The NYS EFC provided partial funding to the town for the pumpout program. The remaining funds necessary were provided by taxpayers in the Town of Islip through the General Fund.

Financial assistance was provided by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and Suffolk County for the purchase of the pumpout vessel.

