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November 2021 Report

Bill would ban sale of single-use plastic water bottles at New York state parks

The sale of single-use plastic water bottles would be banned at state parks in New York under proposed legislation announced recently.

<https://www.ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/ny-state-of-politics/2021/10/22/bill-would-ban-single-use-water-bottles-at-state-parks>

Voters Give Go-Ahead to Green Amendment

Proposal Two on the general election ballot was approved by voters in New York State. The proposed amendment to Article 1 of the New York State Constitution would establish the right of each person to clean air and water and a healthful environment.

<https://huntingtonnow.com/op-ed-voters-give-go-ahead-to-green-amendment/>

State's Drinking Water Quality Council recommends designating 7 PFAS as "emerging contaminants"

The NYS Drinking Water Quality Council recommended designating seven PFAS as "emerging contaminants" (PFNA, PFHpA, PFHxS, PFHxA, PFPeA, PFBA, and PFBS). Should the NYS Department of Health accept the recommendation through a formal rulemaking process, water utilities across the state would be required to test for these toxic chemicals and notify the public if elevated levels are detected.

<https://www.troyrecord.com/2021/10/18/states-drinking-water-quality-council-recommends-designating-7-pfas-as-emerging-contaminants/>

New 2021 Map Shows Dead Zones and Toxic Tides Blanketed Coastal Waters Inundated with Rainfall from Tropical Storms

Scientists at Stony Brook University have completed their assessment of water quality in Long Island's estuaries in 2021 and the news is not good. During the months of June through October, every major bay and estuary across Long Island was afflicted by a toxic algae blooms and oxygen-starved, dead zones. Excessive delivery of nitrogen from onsite wastewater has been cited as the cause of these disturbing events.

<https://www.facebook.com/GoblerLab/posts/4815646748466090>

Governor Hochul Announces Start of Construction on \$408.8 Million Storm Resiliency Sewer Expansion in Suffolk County

Governor Kathy Hochul has announced the start of construction of the \$408.8 million Suffolk County Coastal Resiliency Initiative, which includes wastewater conveyance and treatment upgrades along with sewer system connections for more than 4,000 homes in the Town of Babylon, with connections for an additional 1,700 homes in Mastic-Shirley set to begin later this year. This innovative project leverages federal and state resources with local funding to prevent nitrogen and other contaminants from polluting Long Island's coastal waters. Other environmental benefits to this critical project include improving water quality, restoring ecosystems, and bolstering natural coastal barriers to protect



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communities from future flooding and severe storms fueled by climate change.

<https://www.longisland.com/news/11-01-21/governor-hochul-announces-start-of-construction-on-4088-million-storm-resiliency-sewer-expansion-in-suffolk-county.html>

Pesticides Taking A Toll On LI Turtles, Rescue Group Says

Turtles are threatened by pesticides used on area lawns, according to Karen Testa, executive director of Turtle Rescue of the Hamptons. Chemicals used to treat lawns are "taking a toll on the turtle population of Long Island," Testa said, mainly in the form of aural, or ear, abscesses caused by bacterial or viral infections. Testa called on homeowners and landscape companies to "dramatically reduce" the amount of pesticides applied and encouraged the use of natural, organic alternatives.

<https://patch.com/new-york/riverhead/pesticides-taking-toll-li-turtles-rescue-group-says>