



## **Mission Statement**

*“To recognize stewards of groundwater by encouraging managers to implement, measure, and document their groundwater-friendly practices, as well as promote, enhance, and expand existing local practices of sustainable groundwater use.”*

- Suffolk County Water Authority Groundwater Guardians

In order to ensure safe and high quality water, it is up to citizens to act as stewards of the groundwater system. Our team would like you to take an active part in preserving our local water supply by becoming a Groundwater Guardian.

## **About the Groundwater Guardian Program**

The **Groundwater Foundation** was founded by Susan S. Seacrest in 1985 in order to protect groundwater systems across the country. As more citizens began to join the foundation, the Groundwater Guardian program was formed in 1994. The Groundwater Guardian program is an international effort by the Groundwater Foundation to educate the public about the nature and value of groundwater, and is run locally by a group of dedicated individuals representing government, the business community, and education, agriculture, and Suffolk citizens. Some Suffolk county team members of the Groundwater Guardian program include The Suffolk County Water Authority, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, The Long Island Farm Bureau, Stony Brook University, and The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company. Team activities can include awareness campaigns, such as school poster contests, pollution prevention, conservation, public policy initiatives, waterway cleanups and best management practices. These activities are aided by the Groundwater Foundation, and, each year, the Foundation holds an annual conference at which community representatives can share success stories and are honored for the progress they’ve made in comprehensive groundwater protection in their communities.

## Team Members\*\*\*(All images are links)



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Citizens Campaign for the Environment engages in extensive education, research, lobbying and public outreach in order to help citizens increase their influence and participation in important environmental campaigns. Citizens Campaign works to protect groundwater quality, protection of beaches, and advancement of renewable energy.

Contact: [farmingdale@citizenscampaign.org](mailto:farmingdale@citizenscampaign.org) Phone: 516-390-



Contact: [info@scwa.com](mailto:info@scwa.com) Phone: 631-589-5200

Suffolk County Water Authority is the largest groundwater supplier in the United States, supplying safe, pure and constantly tested drinking water to approximately 1.2 million people. SCWA continuously works to preserve the high quality of Suffolk County's groundwater by supporting hydrologic research and public education.



Contact: [AskUs@lifb.com](mailto:AskUs@lifb.com) Phone: 631-727-3777

The Long Island Farm Bureau is part of one of the largest organizations of farmers in the United States. The Bureau acts to represent the political interests of farmers across the country as well as establishing agricultural stewardship and land preservation programs.



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In conjunction with several other universities across New York, SUNY Stony Brook actively participates in Long Island groundwater research projects. Since 1994, Stony Brook University has made major contributions in groundwater modeling and groundwater impact studies as well as the bioremediation of pollutants.

Contact: [hbokuniewicz@notes.cc.sunysb.edu](mailto:hbokuniewicz@notes.cc.sunysb.edu) Phone: 631-632-



COMPANY The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company is the largest marketer of consumer lawn and garden products in the world. The company creates many products ranging from seed spreaders to fertilizers and pest control products. It also has the second largest professional lawn and landscape care company in the United States. The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company not only works to provide effective

products for consumers, but to make sure those products can be used responsibly in the environment.

Contact: [E-mail](#) Phone: 1-888-270-3714

## GOALS

The Suffolk County Water Authority Groundwater Guardian program has three main goals:

1. Educate citizens to become good stewards

It is important to learn the functions of our aquifer system and have an understanding of why we need to protect our most precious resource. Educators from the Suffolk County Water Authority (SCWA) are available to present a 45-minute demonstration of the water cycle, groundwater model and SCWA treatment and distribution facilities to students in Grades 3-12. Students will learn that Long Island water comes from underground and that surface activities can affect it.

They will learn about the testing the Authority performs, and the filtrations systems used to provide safe drinking water to 1.2 million residents of Suffolk County.

2. Become aware of each other's needs

While some residents and businesses may require education or advice on how to regulate their water usage and protect the groundwater, some organizations that produce necessary goods and services may not be able to limit their level of consumption and must be accommodated for. Cooperation and understanding is required to create a sustainable community within Suffolk County.

3. Learn from each other's success

This site is designed to be both a resource and a forum for successful and efficient methods and execution of sustainable groundwater practice. Any citizen either local to or living outside of Suffolk County with useful, thoughtful, or initiative ideas is welcome to submit information to [info@scwa.com](mailto:info@scwa.com) to be evaluated and shared through our site. As concerned citizens ourselves, we find that the successes we have when spread contribute to the quality of our county, and let us put our water resources to good use.

## **TAKE ACTION**

You can take steps towards becoming a Groundwater Guardian today!

### What You Can Do to Protect our Groundwater

1. Don't pour any hazardous or toxic household materials down the drain or toilet – old paint, cleaners, degreasers, oils, etc. check with NYSDEC for disposal locations.
2. Properly dispose of all expired or unused medications by dropping them off at your local Suffolk County police department precinct's drop box, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
3. When using fertilizers or pesticides on your lawn and gardens do so according to the directions. In this case, more is not better.
4. Rainwater is often sufficient to keep your lawn healthy throughout the summer because a typical lawn needs about an inch of water a week to stay healthy. If you do feel a need to water your lawn, do so in the morning to avoid wasteful evaporation, and keep your water nozzle aimed at your lawn rather than your driveway or sidewalk. Irrigating your lawn less frequently and for longer durations to promote deep root growth and improve your lawn's ability to slow and filter rainwater before it returns to the groundwater.
5. Support open space preservation initiatives in your community.

Here in Suffolk County, protecting our underground aquifer system, the source of all of our drinking water, is critically important to our continued health and prosperity. To join in the effort to preserve our most precious resource, write to us at [info@scwa.com](mailto:info@scwa.com) for further information or to join the team.

## **TEAM ACTIVITIES**

***Results Oriented Activities, or ROAs, are projects to enhance public awareness, education, influence public policy, foster conservation, pollution prevention, and best management practices.***

### Educational Presentations for Schools

Educators from the Suffolk County Water Authority (SCWA) are available to present a 45-minute demonstration of water cycle, groundwater model and SCWA treatment and distribution facilities to students in Grades 3-12. Students will review the definitions relating to the water cycle, which is required by NYS curriculum. In addition, by use of diagram and presentation methods, students will understand that water on the planet is used again and again. Students will learn that Long Island's water comes from underground and surface activities can affect it.

They will learn about the testing the Authority performs, the filtrations systems used to provide safe drinking water to 1.2 million residents of Suffolk County.

For more information on SCWA School visits, please follow the link to <http://www.scwa.com/education/schoolvisits/>

**Resources** (links show up on the side, under “Become a Groundwater Guardian”)

[Long Island aquifer system](#)

[Water footprint calculator](#)

[Proper disposal of household wastes](#)

[Proper disposal of pharmaceuticals](#)

[Water conservation facts](#)

Backyard conservation tips- <http://www.ofswcd.org/BackyardConservation.html>

Household hazardous waste disposal programs- <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8780.html>