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***Town of Stonington
Stormwater Task Force***

For more information, please call 535-5055, go to the Town's website at www.townofstonington.com or stop by the Highway Department's Office on the 3rd floor of the Stonington Town Hall at 152 Elm St

A
Community
Coming Together
To Help Reduce
Nitrogen Overloading
In
Its Rivers, Estuaries and
Long Island Sound.

Stonington

How can you help?

Here are some suggestions:

Have you noticed a buildup of algae in Stonington's beautiful coves and harbors? Why? More nutrients are entering the system than normal. It's a situation of too much of a good thing.

The algal blooms eventually die due to overcrowding and are decomposed by bacteria. The bacteria use the dissolved oxygen, leaving less oxygen for other organisms. The dead plants fall to the bottom and gradually decrease the depth of the waterbody.

Harmful algal blooms (HABs) and hypoxia (severe oxygen depletion) have contributed to the devastation of critical habitats, loss of shellfish resources and a decrease in the populations and diversity of species.

What causes HABS? Nutrients released from fertilizers, sewage and other runoff.

Working together, we can reduce nitrogen overloading.

1. Test your soil to see if fertilizers are actually needed. Go to the Town's website at www.townofstonington.com or call 860-486-4274 for more information on soil sampling.
2. Improve soil structure and soil microbes by using compost.
3. Water your lawn only when grass shows signs of drought stress.
4. Avoid using chemical herbicides or pesticides if possible. These have been shown to be potentially harmful to pets and wildlife as they contain hormone-mimicking chemicals.
5. If you fertilize, use slow release organic fertilizers.
6. Set mower to the highest setting.
7. Pick up pet waste in an appropriate manner.

You will be helping to reduce nitrogen overloading by testing your lawn, mowing and watering less and refraining from using harmful chemicals.

Thank you.