

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR KARA HAHN



FIFTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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PAVING THE WAY TO CLEANER WATER IN SUFFOLK *Legislature Approves Hahn's Bill Requesting County to Consider Best Practices to Reduce Stormwater Runoff on Paving and Parking Lot Projects*

RIVERHEAD, NY – The Suffolk County Legislature last evening adopted a bill that will require the Department of Public Works to consult a 2011 Suffolk Planning Commission report entitled [Managing Stormwater: Natural Vegetation and Green Methodologies](#) and Environmental Facilities Corporation's (EFC) Green Innovation Grant Program when designing or repaving any new or existing parking facility owned by the County of Suffolk. Citing the inherent environmental dangers posed by storm runoff to Suffolk County's waterways and sole-source aquifer, Legislator Kara Hahn (D-Setauket) introduced [Introductory Resolution 1119-2012](#) to protect our region's fragile ecology.

"Parking lots are a necessary part of the suburban landscape, but the toxic effects on our environment that oftentimes accompany 'paving over paradise' do not have to be," said Legislator Hahn. "Making use of the suggestions put forward by Suffolk's Planning commission is an easy, minimally intrusive and non-expensive step that this County, as a national leader in environmental stewardship, can employ to mitigate the effects of runoff."

The Planning Commission Report establishes best practices and guidelines for municipalities to combat runoff. If followed, the guideline would allow Suffolk to apply for grant funding

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from EFC for some of the costs associated with those projects, thus saving the County at a time when it is facing record budget deficits.

The recommendations offered in the report center on two critical approaches: *Managing Wet Weather with Green Infrastructure* and *Ways to Increase Stormwater Recharge*. Many of the suggestions contained in the Suffolk County Planning Commission's whitepaper were compiled from best practices follow by other municipalities throughout the nation.

The measure now goes to County Executive Steve Bellone for his signature. Once he signs the bill it will immediately go into effect, saving both Suffolk's environment and it taxpayers.

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