If you must use fertilizer...

Follow these tips to use fertilizer safely and effectively:

- Most importantly, test soil or require lawn care service to test soil to select an appropriate fertilizing regimen for your yard. Based on chemical and physical characteristics of your yard, fertilizer applications might not be necessary or helpful.
- Use slow release, water insoluble, and/or organic fertilizers. A list is available at nitrogenfree.com.
- Keep fertilizers off any hard surfaces (driveways, sidewalks, roads, stones) and away from storm drains.
- Use the proper fertilizer spreader and calibrate it correctly to avoid using too much fertilizer.
- Never apply fertilizers before rain is forecasted.
- Never fertilize within 10 feet of streams, creeks, or the Bay.
- Never apply fertilizers on frozen ground.
- Avoid applying fertilizer on coarse-textured soils, including sandy or loamy soils.
- Avoid fertilizing slopes and hills.
- Store your fertilizer properly to prevent leaks or spills.

What's Happening In Barnegat Bay?

Nitrogen is an important nutrient that helps plants grow, however there is **too much in Barnegat Bay.** As a result, the Bay's unique ecosystem is dying. Excess nitrogen from human activities causes harmful algal blooms, which block light in the water from reaching plants, fish, and shellfish. In some cases when algal blooms die and decompose, the amount of oxygen in the water declines. Dying algal blooms also smother plants and shellfish on the Bay's bottom. A marine ecosystem with too much nitrogen is unsuitable for many plants and animals, but some non-native species, including stinging jellyfish, thrive in this unhealthy marine environment. In order **to help protect the unique Barnegat Bay ecosystem, including the crabs, clams, oysters, and horseshoe crabs that live there, we need to work together to reduce the amount of nitrogen entering the Bay.**

For More Information on...

- Planting rain gardens
- Buying NJ native plants
- Finding bay-friendly landscapers
- Buying natural, biodegradable cleaners for your house and outdoor showers
- Becoming a Bay Buddy

Visit
www nitrogenfree.com

The Barnegat Bay Nitrogen Pollution Action Project (NPAP) is a campaign to eliminate the excess nitrogen in Barnegat Bay that is radically altering the ecology of the Bay. The NPAP seeks to reduce the amount of nitrogen getting into the Bay through educating the public and elected officials, holding individuals, businesses, and government accountable, and encouraging changes in public policy.

CLEAN OCEAN ACTION
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SAVE BARNEGAT BAY
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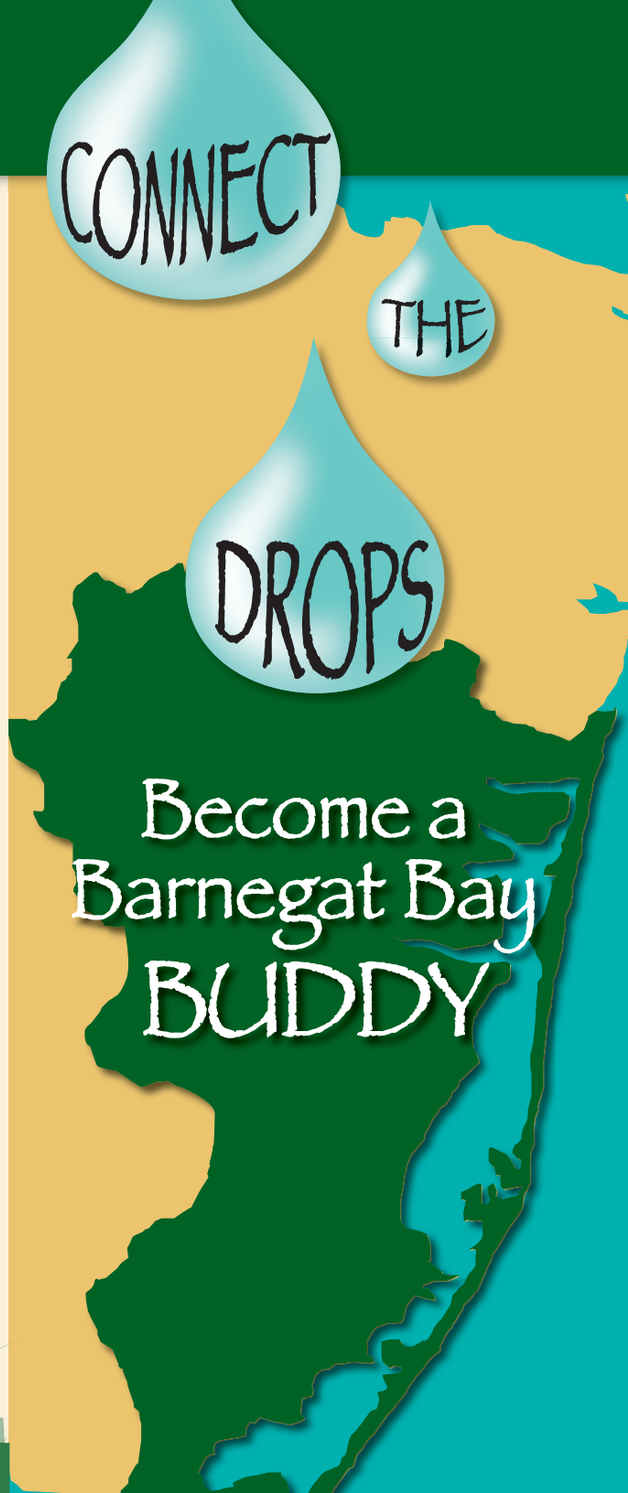
Made possible with generous support from the William Penn Foundation.

CONNECT THE DROPS



Become a Barnegat Bay BUDDY

Become A Bay Buddy...Because Every Drop Counts!

Fact: Barnegat Bay is polluted with excessive amounts of nitrogen, among other pollutants, which are suffocating the ecosystem. Please see panel "What's Happening In Barnegat Bay" for information.

Take Action: You can help by becoming a Bay Buddy. Small actions can make a big difference and you may already be taking steps to reduce nitrogen in the Bay. Check off below the bay-friendly easy actions you do to collect 20 points or more to earn official "Bay Buddy" certification.

The Challenge: Take the steps below, accumulate 20 points or more, and you will earn official Bay Buddy certification.

To maintain healthy, fertilizer-free* yards: (1 point each)

I do:

- ☐ Maintain a mowing height of 3+ inches to keep my grass healthy.
- ☐ Water during early morning and hand water or use drip irrigation to minimize the amount of water that runs off or evaporates.
- ☐ Water my lawns and gardens less often but for longer duration to promote deep and healthy root growth.
- ☐ De-thatch to promote better aeration, healthy grass, and infiltration of water.
- ☐ Mow it, and leave it! Grass clippings are natural fertilizers.
- ☐ Aerate soil to promote healthy root growth.
- ☐ Plant native plants, which require less water and maintenance.
- ☐ Keep mower blades sharp to prevent tearing and injuring grass.
- ☐ Plant clover or other low-nitrogen, drought-tolerant grasses.

To reduce stormwater and nitrogen runoff: (1 point each)

I do:

- ☐ Direct my gutters away from pavement and onto gardens and lawns to reduce runoff and increase infiltration.
- ☐ Maintain a naturally vegetated buffer, or area of native plantings, along waterways to filter pollutants and discourage waterfowl from polluting with their waste.
- ☐ Maintain the amount of impervious surface (e.g., pavement and roofs) on my property to reduce runoff and promote infiltration.
- ☐ Install dry wells or rain barrels on my downspouts to reduce runoff and collect water for gardening.
- ☐ Minimize lawn areas by creating naturalized areas with native plants to increase water filtering in my yard.
- ☐ Pick up and dispose of my pet's feces to prevent the nitrogen and bacteria it contains from entering waterways.

To reduce emissions and atmospheric deposition of nitrogen: (1 point each)

I do:

- ☐ Use compact fluorescent light bulbs to save energy and money. Follow directions when recycling bulbs.
- ☐ Turn off appliances and unplug appliance chargers that are not in use.
- ☐ Carpool, bike, and walk whenever possible.

To promote reduction of nitrogen pollution: (1 point each)

I do:

- ☐ Recruit at least two Bay Buddies from among my neighbors, friends, co-workers, and relatives.
- ☐ Write my elected officials to urge and promote Bay-friendly measures on county and municipal land areas.
- ☐ Attend meetings or contact my municipal Environmental Commission or Committee to promote Bay friendly measures.

Other actions to prevent pollution: (1 point each)

I do:

- ☐ Never dispose hazardous materials, pet feces, or motor oil in storm drains, which lead directly to waterways.
- ☐ Never spray pesticides and herbicides on lawns, gardens, or stones. Use mulch, natural products, and beneficial insects.
- ☐ Use commercial car washes that recycle water and never wash cars in driveways, streets, or parking lots to prevent detergents from entering waterways.
- ☐ Maintain my vehicle so motor oil, antifreeze, and other toxic materials don't leak.
- ☐ Never litter, including cigarette filters, to prevent litter in our waterways.
- ☐ Use only natural, biodegradable soaps in outside showers.
- ☐ Participate in at least one cleanup a year.
- ☐ Never feed ducks, geese, gulls, or other animals to help limit the amount of animal waste and bacteria entering waterways.

BONUS Bay Buddy Actions (10 points each)

I do:

- ☐ Have a rain garden in my yard.
- ☐ Never use fertilizer on my property.
- ☐ Decrease the amount of impervious surface (e.g., pavement and roofs) on my property to reduce runoff and promote infiltration.

Are You A Bay Buddy?

Totals	☐	Add 1 point for each Bay Buddy Action you do
Bonus	☐	Add 10 points for each Bonus Bay Buddy Action you do
Total Score =	☐	

If you earned at least 20 points, you are a Barnegat Bay Buddy; Clean Ocean Action will send you Bay Buddy Certification.

☐ Check if you will display an attractive 9" Bay Buddy Yard Medallion. (Available while supplies last)

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Send completed checklists to:

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*If you must use fertilizer, see tips on back panel.