



Frequently Asked Questions about the Finger Lakes - Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FL-LOWPA)

A. What is FL-LOWPA?

The Finger Lakes - Lake Ontario Watershed Alliance (FL-LOWPA) is a membership of 25 counties, represented by County Planning Departments, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, County Health Departments and Water Quality Management Agencies within the Finger Lakes and Lake Ontario drainage basin.

B. How is FL-LOWPA funded?

Since 1997, FL-LOWPA has received an annual appropriation from the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). FL-LOWPA has received a total of \$13.8 million from the EPF since 2000. FL-LOWPA has leveraged over \$15 million in additional funds (grants, landowner contributions, in-kind services, etc) to make the state appropriation more effective.

C. Is it true that 96% of FL-LOWPA's appropriation goes towards project implementation?

Yes, FL-LOWPA is a very efficient program with extremely low overhead and administrative costs.

D. What types of programs does FL-LOWPA implement?

FL-LOWPA programs are diverse and incorporate watershed management and planning, agricultural best management practices, drinking water supply monitoring and protection, erosion and stormwater control, invasive species management and eradication, habitat restoration, septic system inspections, and public education and involvement.

E. What is the secret to FL-LOWPA's success across nearly two-thirds of New York State?

FL-LOWPA has the unique ability to cross-cut political and jurisdictional boundaries in order to protect New York's water resources. We have developed extensive relationships with over 200 local, state and federal agencies and organizations. FL-LOWPA always searches for opportunities to share information and combine resources to make our programs more effective and efficient.

F. What FL-LOWPA projects are being implemented in my county?

Visit www.fllowpamap.org to access FL-LOWPA's Interactive Mapping System (FIMS). Projects can be viewed by category or within watersheds, counties or towns. Over 50 projects are listed, including data collected, pictures of the sites and key points of contact.

G. Can FL-LOWPA help property owners become better stewards of the land?

Absolutely! Many counties have cost share programs in place, especially for the implementation of agricultural best management practices. FL-LOWPA can also provide property owners with educational materials and technical assistance.

H. FL-LOWPA is a valuable program. How can I get involved?

Talk to your State Legislators and ask for their continued support of FL-LOWPA. Contact the FL-LOWPA representative in your county and ask for more information about volunteer opportunities.

For more information, visit www.fllowpa.org!