

Frequently Asked Questions #1

Do I have to replace my septic system right now?

No. The new Title 5 regulations require all homeowners in designated nitrogen sensitive areas to upgrade their existing septic systems within **5 years** unless their community obtains a watershed permit.

Is new construction subject to the requirement?

Beginning July 8th, 2024, all new construction will be required to use Best Available Nitrogen Reducing Technology (BANRT) for onsite wastewater treatment.

Can EIA components be added to an existing Title 5 septic system?

Sometimes, yes. Talk to your engineer about the possibility of adding it to your existing system.

How much will it cost me to install an Enhanced Innovative Alternative (EIA)* septic system?

- The cost for the components is upwards from \$25,000.
- Installation costs vary from project to project and can range upwards from \$15,000.
- Homeowners should also budget for the cost of engineered drawings which range upwards from \$2500.
- A “retro fit” of your existing system can cost upwards from \$20,000.

**Nitrogen reducing technology meeting 10mg/L nitrogen loading requirements.*

Are there additional costs associated with EIA systems after installation?

Yes. All EIA systems are required to have an operational maintenance agreement for monitoring the working order and efficacy of the system.

How much will the annual maintenance of my EIA septic system cost?

Maintenance and Operating agreements with third party or septic manufacturers can range upwards from \$500

Will individual homeowners who are required to upgrade to a new EIA septic system or connect to sewer be responsible for the entire cost?

- While funds are available the Town of Wellfleet is currently offering a grant of \$12,500 to any homeowner installing an EIA septic system on their property. Contact Heith Martinez, Health Agent heith.martinez@wellfleet-ma.gov
- To help with the financial burden that many residents will face when replacing or upgrading their septic systems or connecting to a municipal sewer, [AquiFund](#) provides accessible low-interest loans for all residential wastewater management measures, especially for those with greater financial need.

If a sewer line is planned for the area I live in, will I still be required to install an EIA?

No. Homes in **approved sewer districts** do not have to install an EIA.