

Environmental Protection Division

Orange County Septic Upgrade Incentive Program

Emily Lawson

Emily.Lawson@ocfl.net

EPDWaterSciences@ocfl.net

321-689-7576

Orange County Septic Installers



Septic Upgrade Incentive Program (SUIP)

Why?

- Conventional septic systems treat bacterial/health concerns
- Enhanced septic systems also treat nutrient/environmental concerns
- In areas dense with conventional septic systems, excess nitrogen gets in the groundwater, which flows to our rivers, lakes, streams, and springs, which can cause harmful algal blooms
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection – through local Department of Health modification and repair permitting process, will require upgrade to enhanced systems (3/1/2025)



Septic Upgrade Incentive Program (SUIP)

Who?

- Property owner may be reimbursed, or
- certified installer/licensed plumber paid directly

What?

- Up to \$10,000 per lot
- Funding limited; currently enough for approximately 230 systems
- Upgrade from conventional to enhanced (nitrogen) treatment septic system



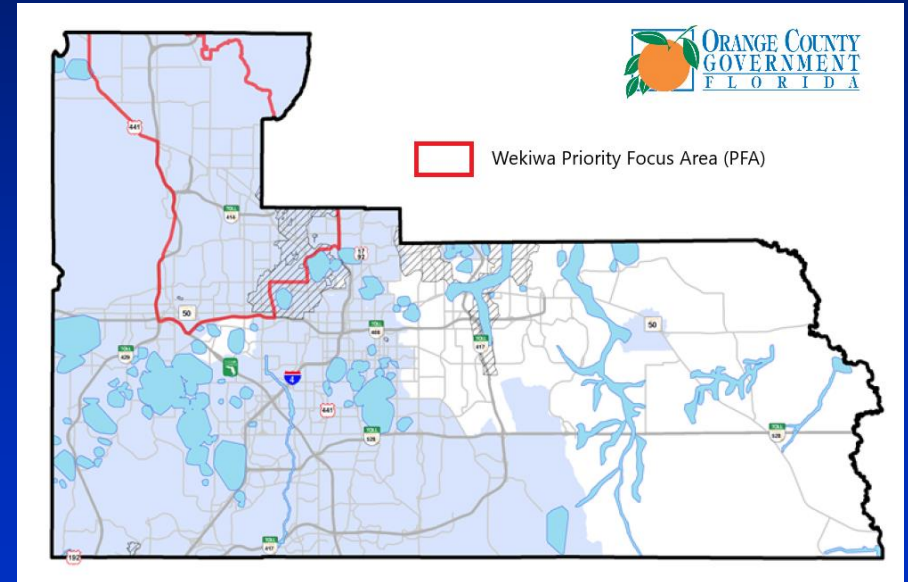
Septic Upgrade Incentive Program (SUIP)

When?

- This date was 3/1/2025, as determined by the state FDEP/DOH

Where?

- Within the Wekiva Priority Focus Area (PFA) on residential lots
- Within Orange County Utilities wastewater service area
- Lot not planned for septic to sewer conversion in the next 5 years

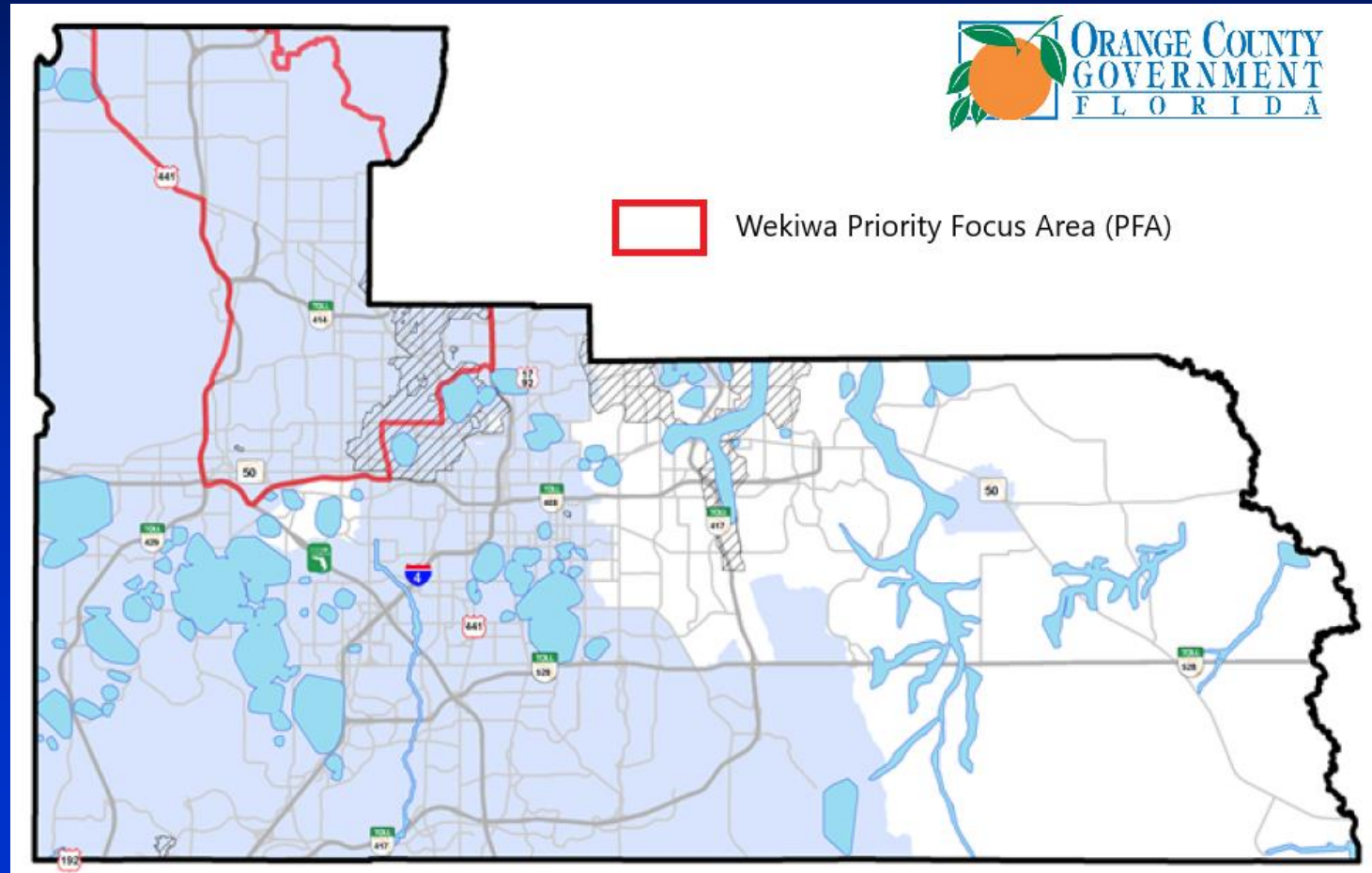




Septic Upgrade Incentive Program (SUIP)

Where?

- Within the Wekiwa Priority Focus Area (PFA)





How Do I Participate?

- Inquiry Form – where do you get it?
 - www.ocfl.net/SepticPollutionPrevention
 - OCNeighborhoods@ocfl.net
 - 407-836-4495
- Orange County staff will screen the initial information and check against requirements, including sewerage plans
- Qualified interested parties will be sent the full Application



Application

- Pages 1 through 5 to qualify and reserve funding
 - Applicant/Installer information
 - Property owner information
 - Department of Health permit information
 - Make/Model of system
 - Estimated date of install
 - Quote referring to approved system
 - Waiver Form
 - Sign Terms and Conditions



SEPTIC UPGRADE INCENTIVE PROGRAM CERTIFIED INSTALLER/LICENSED PLUMBER APPLICATION

Orange County, through a grant received by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), is authorized to issue funds for the Septic Upgrade Incentive Program (Program) pursuant to the Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act (2016)¹ and resulting Basin Management Action Plans² (BMAPs). The program goal will be to develop an incentive program to encourage homeowners to voluntarily upgrade existing conventional Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems (OSTDS), also referred to as septic systems, to include nitrogen reducing enhancements.

The Program offers subsidies in amounts up to \$10,000 per system within portions of the Priority Focus Area (PFA) as identified and delineated by the FDEP in the Wekiwa and Rock Springs BMAP that lie within unincorporated Orange County's Wastewater Service Area. The subsidies are available for payment directly to property owners, certified septic system installers, or licensed plumbers to incentivize the resident to upgrade their existing conventional septic system to a new nitrogen reducing system approved by FDEP.

A certified septic system installer or licensed plumber may apply to participate in and receive reimbursement for eligible upgrades under the Program by completing and submitting this Application and additionally a Reimbursement Request (including all required attachments).

This application must be submitted to Orange County, either electronically to OCneighborhoods@ocfl.net or by mail to the Neighborhood Services Division, P.O. Box 1393 Orlando, FL 32802-1393. If you have questions regarding this program, please call (407) 836-5895. Please follow the link for further information <https://www.ocfl.net/environment/septicpollutionprevention.aspx>.

The Program is contingent upon appropriation by the state legislature and, if required, an authorized release of funds by the Legislative Budget Commission. In the event of a state revenue shortfall, funding for the Program may be reduced. Receipt of an approval for an application does not guarantee payment will be made in the event Program funding is cut.

APPLICANT INFORMATION	
Certified Installer/Licensed Plumber Name*	
Mailing Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Contact Person	
Phone Number	
Email	

*Certified Installer/Licensed Plumber must provide a W-9 with this application to receive reimbursement payment.

REGISTRATION OR LICENSE INFORMATION FOR INSTALLER	
Please select one.	
☐ Department of Health (DOH) Registration OR	
☐ Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) License	
Name on Registration/License	
Registration/License Number	
Business Authorization Number	
County of Registration	



Application

- Page 6 and additional documentation to request payment
 - Date installed
 - Photos of install prior to inspection
 - Install: Invoice and proof of payment of property owner portion
 - Permit: Cost and proof of payment
 - Date of DOH inspection
 - Copy of Approved final DOH permit

Reimbursement Request (To be filled out and submitted after approval of Application, system installation, approval of final inspection by FDOH)	
Application approval number	
Date of Installation	
Amount requested	
Cost of installation	
Cost of DOH permit	
Date of final permit inspection by DOH	

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION Attach the listed supporting documentation to this Reimbursement Request. Please check each box to indicate the corresponding supporting documentation has been attached.	
DOH Permit (Form DH 4016)	☐
DOH Existing System and System Repair Evaluation (Form DEP 4015)	☐
Photos of installation prior to DOH inspection	☐
Description of OSTDS features that accomplish enhanced treatment of nitrogen and demonstration of approval as an Advanced Treatment Unit by FDEP	☐
Contractor Invoice for installation	☐
Proof of payment for septic installation or modification (voided check, redacted bank statement, or redacted credit card statement. Must have Property Owner Name, Transaction Description, and Transaction Amount)	☐

Under penalty of perjury, I affirm that the OSTDS described herein meets the FDEP Rule, Chapter 62-6, F.A.C. requirements for an enhanced system and that other Program requirements as outlined in this application have been met and that I agree to the Program Terms and Conditions.

Printed Name	Signature	Date
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Thank you!

NOTICE REGARDING UPCOMING STATE SEPTIC MANDATES

Our records show that you likely use a septic system at this address.

Orange County is offering a Septic Upgrade Incentive Program that can **reimburse part of your cost** - and help protect Wekiwa and Rock Springs.

UP TO
\$10,000

In the near future, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection will require homeowners with a conventional septic system to upgrade to one that removes nitrogen to get a repair or modification permit. There is no guarantee that future incentive funding will be available.

This applies to systems in the **Wekiwa Priority Focus Area** that are on lots smaller than one acre and are not planned for sewer installation within the next five years.



For more information, email OCNeighborhoods@ocfl.net, use the QR code, or fill out the form at the bottom of <https://www.ocfl.net/septicpollutionprevention>.



Septic System Care: The 3 P's and Water Efficiency

Pump your tank

Pumping every 3 - 5 years is the best maintenance practice for your septic tank.

Prevent backups

Only flush human waste and toilet paper. No grease, wipes, pharmaceuticals, or chemicals.

Protect the drain field

No parking, planting (roots), or drainage to this area.

Use water efficiently

Upgrade to high-efficiency toilets and showerheads, faucet aerators, and wash laundry throughout the week.

Signs of Septic System Failure

- Water backing up into toilets, drains, and sinks
- Standing water or dampness near the septic tank or drain field
- Bad odors around the septic tank or drain field

See the other side for funding assistance for failing systems.

Environmental Protection Division
3165 McCrory Pl, Ste. 200
Orlando, FL 32803

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321-689-7576

Alvin Cruz
OCNeighborhoods@ocfl.net
407-836-4495