

TO: Longboat Key Commission  
FROM: Sandy Gilbert Chairman of START  
DATE: April 13, 2015  
RE: Addressing Town Goal #6

Goal #6: Protect and conserve our natural environment and maintain the beauty of the Key.

START in its ongoing goal of preserving the quality of our coastal waters recommends that the Longboat Key Commission approve the following:

1. Set up a workshop with the Town's Public Works Department and the Sarasota County Environmental Resources Department on the use of grass Swales to reduce the amount of nutrient runoff into the Bay.
2. Previous studies in the County have shown that the use of grass Swales adjacent to building foundations can reduce nutrient runoff by as much as 90%.
3. The use of grass Swales would be a major augmentation to your "Living Seawall" application that uses organism living in seawall pockets or crevices to reduce nutrient runoff. The Swale approach is more efficient as it treats nutrients before they even reach the Bay.
4. John Ryan at the County oversaw the previous Swale executions and has offered to conduct a workshop to outline the process and its benefits. John can be reached at [jryan@scgovt.net](mailto:jryan@scgovt.net).



**End of Agenda Item**