

- Drinking water is supplied exclusively from the island's sole source aquifer, and the region is home to two estuaries of national significance (Long Island Sound and the Peconic Estuary) and a state-designated estuary (South Shore Estuary Reserve).
- The region also includes the State's third largest Forest Preserve, the Central Pine Barrens. The Preserve totals roughly 100,000 acres, comprised of a 52,500 Core Preservation Area that is essentially off-limits to new development, and a Compatible Growth Area of approximately 47,500 acres, where new development must conform to standards set forth in a Comprehensive Land Use Plan.
- The shorelines of the region are dynamic environments subject to erosion damage and flooding during storm events, a fact that will make it more vulnerable to impacts associated with sea level rise.
- The region's miles of coastline, marine environments and rural character are significant assets which have positive economic implications for the region. Eastern Long Island's popularity as a vacation destination, which generates significant sales tax revenues, is tied in large part to its rural character. The agricultural, tourism, and commercial and recreational fishing industries have been positive contributors to the regional economy, even as industrial and service sectors of the economy have evolved from defense to technology-based companies.
- Significant financial liabilities arise from legacy impacts resulting from contamination at sites used for industrial production during the period when the regional economy was powered by the defense industry. Site investigations and remedial activities continue at dozens of sites throughout the region, decades after the downsizing of the defense industry, some of which involve the federal government. Impacts to public water supply wells and efforts by water utilities to obtain compensation continue to be a source of controversy as local officials press congressional representatives for assistance in this regard.