# Long Island Sound Citizens Advisory Committee
## *Value Proposition*

**Long Island Sound Partnership Citizens Advisory Committee Members:**

Alliance for Mystic River Watershed
Atlantic Marine Conservation Society
Audubon Connecticut & New York
Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor
City Island Oyster Reef
Citizens Campaign for the Environment
CT Association of Conservation Districts
Darien Commission on Coastal Waters
Earthplace/Harbor Watch
Eastern CT Conservation District
Friends of the Bay
Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee
Manhasset Bay Protection Committee
Menunkatuck Audubon Society
Mystic Aquarium
NY League of Conservation Voters
Project Oceanology
Revitalize Our Waterways
Save the Sound
Setauket Harbor Task Force
SoundWaters, Inc.
The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk
The Nature Conservancy
The Sound School
Regional Vocational Aquaculture Center
The Whaling Museum and Education Center at Cold Spring Harbor
Town of Groton
Town of Mamaroneck
Town of North Hempstead
Westchester County, Dept. of Sustainability

The CAC meets quarterly on the second Thursday of March, June, September, and December at alternating locations in New York and Connecticut.

Meetings are open to the public.

**The Long Island Sound Partnership:**

The Long Island Sound (LIS) Partnership was formed in 1985 by the EPA and the states of Connecticut and New York. It works to restore the ecological health of the Sound and its watershed, through implementation of the 2025 Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). Success depends on strong partnerships and meaningful community engagement with local user groups, concerned organizations and individuals that live and work in the Sound's watershed.

**Why the CAC Matters:**

For more than 40 years, the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) has served as **an essential link between community stakeholders and the Partnership's decision-making body.** The CAC helps ensure that community voices shape the priorities and implementation of the CCMP.

The CAC provides advice and perspectives to the Management Committee and Partnership work groups – frequently in coordination with the LIS Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) – to ensure collaborative, accountable and efficient progress. The CAC's supportive role has helped drive major gains for Long Island Sound—cutting nitrogen pollution by more than 60% since 1990, sharply reducing the area and duration of hypoxia, restoring 2,400 acres of coastal habitat, and reconnecting nearly 500 miles of rivers for migratory fish.

**Benefits of Membership:**

When your organization joins the CAC, you become part of a community united by a shared love for Long Island Sound and a deep commitment to protecting it. As a CAC member organization, **you bring technical expertise and trusted community insights** that strengthen the committee's impact and bring real meaning to our work, helping to shape decisions that protect the Sound for generations to come. As a CAC member you play an active role in helping to shape priorities that guide federal and state investments in Long Island Sound Restoration. In return, you gain information on emerging issues, programs and funding opportunities and become part of a strong regional network of leaders, subject-matter experts and partners that care deeply about the health of the Sound and its watershed.

(cont. on page 2)

Becoming a CAC member connects you to a long-standing. In return, you gain information on emerging issues, programs and funding opportunities and **become part of a strong regional network** of leaders, subject-matter experts and partners that care deeply about the health of the Sound and its watershed. Becoming a CAC member connects you to a long-standing legacy of environmental progress and collective action for Long Island Sound.

**Our Impact and Accomplishments:**

The CAC consists of **professionals and community leaders** whose collective input helps set the Partnership's annual priorities and inform how resources are invested. Members play a vital role in promoting public awareness, engaging decision makers and sharing information about Long Island Sound issues including healthy water quality, resilient coastal and marine habitats, sustainable communities, and an informed and engaged public. A core part of this work is educating lawmakers about the importance of Long Island Sound and the need for sustained federal funding through the Geographic and National Estuaries Programs. The ***Long Island Sound Restoration & Stewardship Act*** **and** ***ESTUARIES Act*** are core components of the CAC's impact. Together, the CAC's continued commitment has helped increase federal funding for Long Island Sound from $3 million in FY15 to more than $40 million in FY26—demonstrating the real, measurable power of a unified voice.

**Who Can Join:**

The CAC welcomes diverse members from across Connecticut and New York who represent environmental organizations, industries, local governments, and other community stakeholders with a demonstrated interest in the Long Island Sound.

**Expectations and Time Commitment:**

CAC members are expected to follow the committee's bylaws and actively participate in its work. This includes attending **quarterly meetings in March, June, September, and December**; contributing their expertise during discussions; and helping to communicate Long Island Sound priorities within their professional and community networks.

June and September meetings are typically held in person, with a hybrid option available. Committee participation generally requires 3–5 hours per quarter (not including travel time) and provides members with meaningful opportunities to shape policy recommendations, strengthen regional collaboration, and support CCMP implementation. Limited travel reimbursement is available for committee members who attend in-person meetings.

You can **learn more about CAC membership, work, and meeting schedules at:** https://lispartnership.org/about/committees/citizens-advisory-committee/

For inquiries about how **your organization can join the CAC email: (add link)**