



For the last 51 years, CCOM has prided itself on being a grassroots environmental organization, driven by the ever-changing environmental challenges and threats to our precious corner of the world and our passion to protect it for future generations to come.

Today, the threats of sea level rise, climate change and impaired waters are real and present. As we continue to press for measures to protect our beaches and restore our waters, I want to thank you for being part of our journey.

Whether you're a member, a Sustainer, or someone who simply loves Montauk as much as we do and wants to follow our work, thank you for being part of CCOM!

With thanks,

President

CCOM PETITION
"DOWNTOWN MONTAUK NEEDS SAND NOW"
MORE THAN 1,100 SIGNATURES COLLECTED



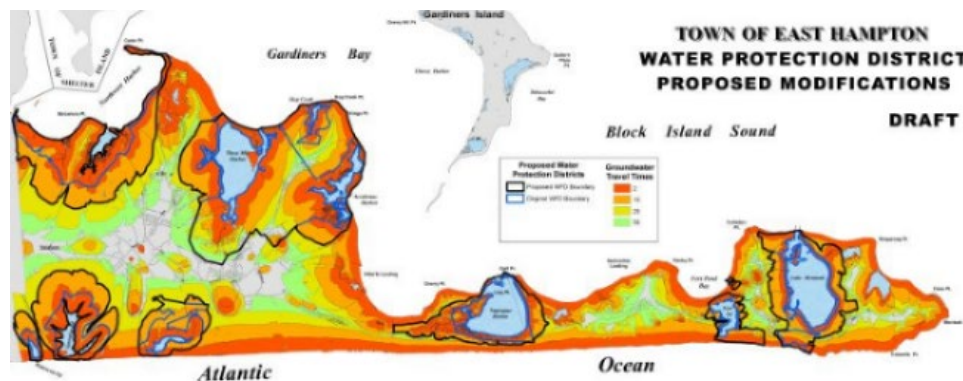
The petition started by Concerned Citizens of Montauk demanding the Army Corps of Engineers replenish Montauk's downtown beach in 2021 as promised has received more than 1,100 signatures in the past 3 weeks.

Laura Tooman, President of CCOM, said “we appreciate the overwhelming support of our members and community to our petition on Change.org which is further evidence of the need for the ACOE to address the reality of climate change and protect our downtown and its beaches with the sand that was promised as part of the Fire Island to Montauk Point project.”

The recent FIMP construction proposal from the ACOE would delay the promised pumping of 450,000 cubic yards of ocean-dredged sand on 6,000 feet of Montauk’s downtown beach, which was slated for late 2021, to 2023. “FIMP is an integral intermediate step in addressing the coastal resiliency of our vulnerable community and is part of a much larger, longer-term comprehensive plan to protect the Montauk downtown area. CCOM has been deeply involved in the scientific understanding of Montauk’s coastline and in fostering the community’s development of long-term solutions such as adaptive infrastructure planning to ensure the protection of Montauk and its beaches for generations to come,” said Laura Tooman. “We look forward to seeing ACOE put sand on the beaches this year.”

There is still time to sign our petition requesting that the ACOE ensure that our beaches are replenished in 2021 to protect our community and environment from the impacts of climate change. [CLICK HERE](#) to add your name. For further information [CLICK HERE](#) to read this week’s press reporting about our petition in *The East Hampton Press*.

CPF WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT KEY PROJECTS RECEIVE TOWN BOARD APPROVAL



As a member of the East Hampton Town CPF Water Quality Technical Advisory Committee, CCOM is able to keep you updated on the latest projects and recommendations set for Town Board approval.

1. The Committee’s [recommendation to expand the Town’s Water Protection District](#) means that, if approved, more property owners will be eligible to receive more money for installing new nitrogen-reducing septic systems. This has been a long-awaited code change, and you can voice your support by either calling in during the public hearing portion at the next Town Board meeting, which will be held on May 6th, or by sending an email to the Town Clerk: cbrennan@EHamptonNY.Gov. We hope to see this change adopted at the following Town Board meeting on May 20th.

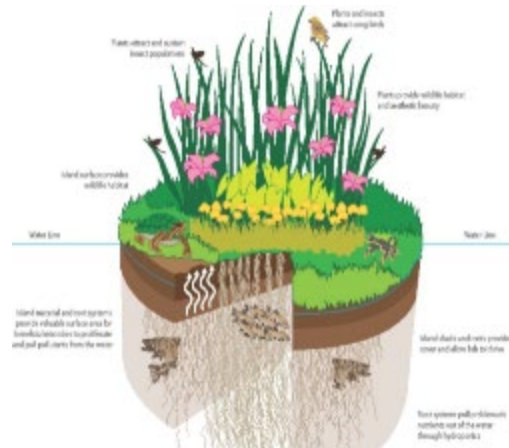
2. [A second new pump out boat](#) will be purchased for the East Hampton Trustees that will service both Lake Montauk and Three Mile Harbor. While our waters within three miles of shore are protected as “No Discharge Zones” in the Clean Water Act, vessel waste remains an issue. Whether such pollution is caused by a lack of awareness in the broader boating community or insufficient resources such as functioning service boats, a second new pump out boat will be a critical step towards reducing that source of pollution in the two harbors.
3. The East Hampton Town Shellfish Hatchery has been given approval and funds to expand their work into the cultivation of sugar kelp. This is an emerging industry that has been lauded for its unprecedented ability to remove excess nitrogen and carbon from the water while adding oxygen, creating a healthier growing environment for shellfish and other beneficial species.

These projects represent significant advances in improving water quality in Lake Montauk and the East Hampton area.

[CLICK HERE TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!](#)

FORT POND FLOATING WETLANDS WATER QUALITY REMEDIATION PROJECT INSTALL MAY 15, 2021

Our highly anticipated Fort Pond Floating Wetlands project – for which we were awarded East Hampton Town CPF monies in late 2019 – is set to be installed on May 15th! This innovative pilot project will remove excess nitrogen and phosphorus to help mitigate the extent and severity of the harmful algal blooms that have plagued the pond for the last few years. Additionally, we worked closely with CCOM’s knowledgeable friends Jim Grimes and Vicki Bustamante to ensure we selected the most beneficial native plants for the installation so that our seasonal floating wetlands will also support pollinators and enhance the beauty of Fort Pond.



This project is intended to supplement our other efforts aimed at reducing pollutant loadings in Fort Pond, especially encouraging property owners to [upgrade to a new nitrogen-reducing septic system through the Town’s incentive program](#), have their standard cesspools or septic tanks serviced every 3-5 years, and resist applying fertilizers to lawn areas.

Also in May, CCOM will start its fourth season of regularly sampling Fort Pond and Big Reed Pond to test for toxic blue-green algae in partnership with the Gobler Laboratory at Stony Brook Southampton. These results, along with our year-round bacteria testing results, are always available on our website [HERE](#).

MORE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY PROGRESS **EH TOWN BOARD FOCUSES ON NYSTRETCH** **CODE DRAFT LEGISLATION**

CCOM continues to advocate for advancing efforts to reduce our region's reliance on fossil fuels and applauds another recent milestone.

At its April 13 work session, the East Hampton Town Board discussed draft legislation for adopting provisions of the NYStretch Energy Code, a statewide model for use by municipalities to accelerate the drive to carbon-neutral building. Adoption of more stringent building ordinances would help the Town move closer to its goal of deriving 100% of its energy from renewable sources.

At the same time, energy savings to building owners and tenants in electricity, natural gas, fuel oil, and propane costs are projected at 11% annually for those implementing the NYStretch Code. More information can be found in [this East Hampton Star article](#) and in the video replay of the Town Board discussion of the draft legislation [HERE](#).

CCOM WEBINAR SERIES **UPCOMING TOPICS**

Our well-attended webinar series will begin again, featuring two important issues in the coming months.

June: Solar Energy – learn about how solar will contribute to our renewable energy future and how you can make the switch to solar.

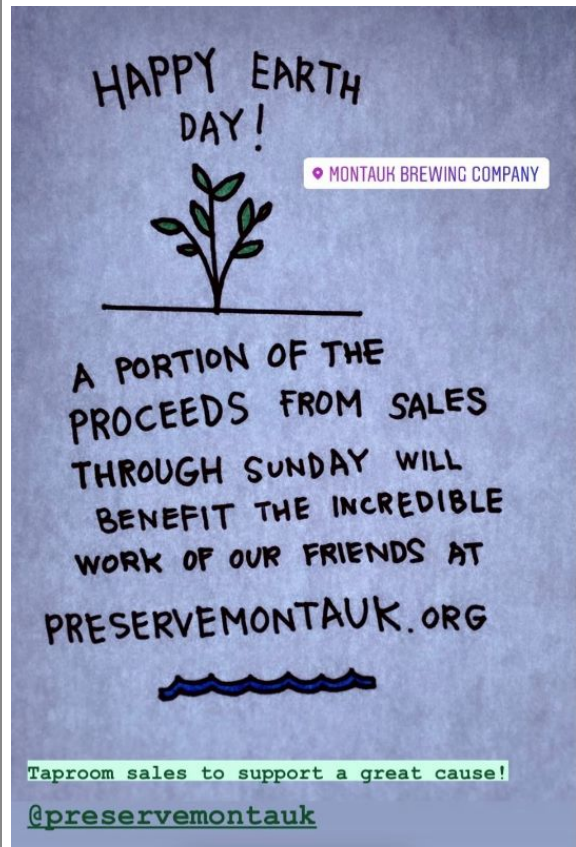
July: Montauk's Wastewater – learn about new solutions to addressing Montauk's need for improved water quality through new innovative wastewater treatment options.

Details and Zoom meeting links will be included in our upcoming Newsletters, and posted to our Events & Activities page [HERE](#).

MONTAUK LOVES EARTH DAY

We want to give a big THANK YOU to all who participated in their own Earth Day Cleanup. It is this kind of community action that remains at the core of CCOM.

The Montauk Brewing Company also went above and beyond by donating to CCOM a portion of their Taproom sales from Earth Day Weekend. We applaud this local business for never losing sight of their love of Montauk and its unique environment.



[CLICK HERE TO MAKE A DONATION!](#)

CCOM is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit environmental organization. Thanks to donors like you, we have been protecting our unique environment since 1970. Please consider making a tax deductible donation today.