**CAC Community Projects**

**Objectives:** Establish funding opportunities for community-based local projects to support CCMP implementation that draw from multiple focus areas with guidance from the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC).

**Description:** Develop proposals and fund cross-cutting interdisciplinary projects with guidance from the CAC to solicit applications for projects that implement the CCMP and provide environmental benefits and promote stewardship of the Albemarle-Pamlico region. Project type and selections will be made through a process recommended by staff based on input from the CAC.

Topic areas discussed by the CAC in meetings and in membership questionnaires throughout 2023-2024 include local government and community planning and capacity, supporting a database or mapping exercise of all community groups or community led-initiatives in the region, infrastructure assessments and planning of failing septic and green infrastructure, wetlands education opportunities, harmful algal bloom education and response, stormwater improvements, urban waters engagement efforts, community-based participatory science, and stakeholder engagement.

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| **Year(s)/Project Status:**  | New  |
| **Lead / Partners:**  | APNEP Citizen Advisory Committee  |
| **Outputs/Deliverables:**  | Community Demonstration Projects   |
| **Outcomes:**  | Increased stewardship of the AP region; increased community and citizen involvement in watershed protection. On-the-ground projects that demonstrate environmental benefits  |
| **Estimated Cost:**  | $100,000  |
| **BIL Focus Ares:**  | SAV, Wetlands, Water Quality, Community Resilience  |
| **2024 CCMP Categories:**  | Understand, Protect & Restore, Engage, Monitor  |
| **Equity Strategy:**  | Spatial targeting to inform; offer use of Spatial Equity database and tool to assist equity considerations. It is anticipated that CAC members will be very helpful in thinking through BIL Equity Strategy implementation across multiple projects and focus areas.  |