



Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council

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2020 Work Plan

EAC PURPOSE

Created under Chapter 31 of the Carroll County Code of Public Local Laws, the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) is dedicated to exploration and promotion of the County's environmental management responsibilities, to providing the Commissioners with educated information and/or advice that is in the best interest of the County and the County's residents, and to assist with environmental educational efforts.

EAC FUNCTION

The EAC functions at the direction of the Carroll County Board of Commissioners and, as such, works cooperatively with County environmental staff to research environmental policy issues; to advise the Board of County Commissioners; to foster environmental education; and generally to act in the best interest of County residents by promoting effective environmental protection and management principles.

WORK PLAN PURPOSE

As an advisory body to the Board, the EAC provides information to the Board on emerging environmental policies and projects. Projects may be individual, discrete projects of the EAC, supplemental or supportive to staff projects, or recommend measures to mitigate environmental impacts for projects initiated by or supported by the Board.

This work plan outlines the topics, projects, and/or issues where the EAC will assist and advise the Board for the 2020 calendar year. The EAC reviewed these topics with the Board in the annual joint meeting held on January 23, 2020.



TOPICS AND PROJECTS FOR 2020

In Calendar Year 2020, the EAC will work on the following topics and/or projects:

Topic/Project	Expected Product
<p><i>Reducing Business Use of Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) in Carroll County – Research & Public Outreach:</i></p> <p>HB 109, passed by the 2019 Maryland General Assembly, prohibits the sale of certain polystyrene foam food and beverage containers that are intended to be used once for eating or drinking after July 1, 2020. Food service businesses, such as restaurants and grocery stores, may not offer food in polystyrene products after that date as well. Violators could be subject to a \$250 fine.</p> <p>The bill does have some exceptions, including: (1) food in polystyrene foam that was packaged before receipt by the food service business; (2) polystyrene foam products used to package raw or uncooked meat, fish, poultry, or seafood; (3) nonfoam polystyrene food service products; and (4) food stored in polystyrene foam containers for later distribution outside the state.</p> <p>The EAC will research the bill and its requirements and will coordinate with the Carroll County Health Department to develop public outreach materials aimed at helping businesses comply with the new law.</p> <p><i>Target Completion: Late Spring 2020</i></p>	<p>Brochure or booklet</p>
<p><i>Residential Graywater Use in Carroll County – Research & Public Outreach:</i></p> <p>Graywater is untreated water collected from bathroom sink, tub, or shower. While not drinkable, it is suitable, and even beneficial, for irrigating certain areas of the yard, which also helps to conserve water usage.</p> <p>The EAC will research homeowner graywater usage and prepare public outreach materials to help provide Carroll’s residents with basic information regarding graywater, its residential uses, and benefits. The materials will be made available in hardcopy and online.</p> <p>This project was carried over from the previous year, as MDE has not yet released regulations.</p> <p><i>Target Completion: Late Fall 2020 (pending availability of regulations from MDE)</i></p>	<p>Brochure or booklet</p>



ONGOING TOPICS AND PROJECTS

The EAC will address the following ongoing topics and projects:

- In its continuing role to promote public education and awareness on environmental issues, the EAC will also address citizen concerns as they arise and are brought to the EAC's attention.
- A member of the EAC's Solid Waste Committee, who was appointed by the Board to serve on the Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC), will continue to report back to the other EAC members and act as a liaison between the Councils.
- The Environmental Awareness Awards are typically presented biennially to individuals and groups chosen from nominees submitted for consideration by their peers. Awards were presented in 2018. A subcommittee of the EAC is discussing possible timing issues, venues, and improvements moving forward. The subcommittee will complete its evaluation and make recommendations to the full EAC. The EAC will adjust the timing and process accordingly. The next awards process is anticipated to result in a recognition ceremony to be held in 2021.
- From time to time, an informational tour is arranged for the EAC. These tours are intended to raise awareness and knowledge of various environmental issues, such as the EAC's tour of Lehigh's conveyor system in 2017. A similar tour may be arranged if the opportunity arises.

Approval will be sought from the Board to proceed on any concerns requiring additional time, staff, or financial resources.

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS

Other topics and/or projects may surface throughout the year for which the Board would like a review and/or advice from the EAC. If the Board seeks input from the EAC outside of the work plan process, the Board will request the review and input in writing. The request will specify what aspect of the issue/project should be discussed and/or the desired product from the EAC.

Other issues or projects for discussion may be brought to the EAC's attention during the year by a member of the EAC, the public, or staff. If the EAC chooses to pursue a project, a written request will be made to the Board for approval to amend the work plan with the additional project. The request will specify the scope of the project and expected product and outcome. The Board may modify the scope of the project with its approval.

At the request of the Board of County Commissioners, potential future projects, as needed and time permitting, may include public education regarding tree planting, wind energy, and/or potable water.

