



## 2019 Work Plan

### EAC PURPOSE

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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

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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

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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 2019 calendar year. The EAC reviewed these topics with the Board in the annual joint meeting held on February 7, 2019.



## TOPICS AND PROJECTS FOR 2019

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In Calendar Year 2019, the EAC will work on the following topics and/or projects:

Topic/Project	Expected Product
<p><b>Reducing Single-Use Plastic Bag Use in Carroll County – Research:</b>                      The trend toward reusable shopping bags provides benefits to the County, including less clogging of storm drains and less waste in the landfill. Recycling of plastic bags can be challenging, due to cost as well as interfering with recycling sorting equipment.</p> <p>At the Board’s request, the EAC will research options available to Carroll County to reduce the use of plastic bags, as well as possible options for feasible recycling of plastic bags. The EAC will review pros and cons of the options and provide its findings to the Board in a report.</p> <p><i>Target Completion: March 2019</i></p>	Report + findings
<p><b>2019 Environmental Stewardship Booklet Update:</b> The 2019 Environmental Stewardship booklet, which is updated every other year, will be updated to reflect current data. The booklet will be made available in hardcopy and online.</p> <p><i>Target Completion: Spring 2019</i></p>	Booklet
<p><b>Residential Graywater Use in Carroll County – Research &amp; Public Outreach:</b>                      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>At the Board’s request, 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><i>Target Completion: Fall 2019 (pending availability of regulations from MDE)</i></p>	Brochure or booklet



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***Guide to Becoming a Community Solar Subscriber in Carroll County – Research & Public Outreach:***

In 2018, the EAC researched community solar energy generation systems (CSEGSs) in Maryland and prepared a report to the Board for information and to suggest possible next steps. Community solar subscriptions are currently available to residents whether the Board takes any additional action or not.

As a follow up, the EAC will prepare materials geared to helping local residents to understand the options and the process for subscribing to a community solar facility.

*Target Completion: August/September 2019*

Brochure or booklet

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***Workshop for Residents – Public Outreach:***

In 2017, the EAC hosted the first of a regular workshop for residents and the general public. To help fulfill the public outreach requirements of the NPDES MS4 permit, this workshop focused on stormwater and what residents could do to mitigate stormwater pollution and prevent runoff. A residential/public workshop is intended to be held every other year.

The 2019 calendar year will begin the first in a series of public workshops geared toward municipal residents and best practices for homeowners and renters. Municipalities will be grouped by location, with residents of those areas invited to attend. One workshop will be held every other year, on the years when a general public workshop is to be held.

Carroll County's municipalities are co-permittees on the NPDES MS4 permit.

*Target Workshop Date: Summer 2019*

Educational workshop for municipalities' general public + related educational materials



## ONGOING TOPICS AND PROJECTS

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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 presented biennially to individuals and groups chosen from nominees submitted for consideration by their peers. Awards were presented in 2018. The EAC will discuss possible timing issues and improvements moving forward. Unless the timing is adjusted, the EAC will begin in fall 2019 with the preliminary work and preparation of materials to launch the 2020 Environmental Awareness Awards process in January 2020.
- › Each year, an informational tour is arranged for the EAC. These tours are intended to raise awareness and knowledge of various environmental issues. In 2017, the EAC toured Lehigh's conveyor system. In 2019, as a result of the research on EPS, the EAC will pursue a tour of the Prince George's County composting facility, as a result of a suggestion by the Maryland Sierra Club.

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

## ADDITIONAL PROJECTS

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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, 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.

