



# Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council

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Department of Land &  
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## 2022 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 to generally 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 2022 calendar year. The EAC reviewed these topics with the Board in the annual joint meeting held on January 27, 2022.



## TOPICS AND PROJECTS FOR 2022

In Calendar Year 2022, the EAC will work on the following topics and/or projects:




Topic/Project	Expected Product
<p><b><i>Salt Management for Homeowners Guide – Public Outreach:</i></b></p> <p>The next NPDES MS4 permit will require the development of a salt management plan. The next permit will continue to include public outreach and education requirements. With the new salt management plan requirement, it will be important to reach out to private property owners to raise awareness on the importance of salt management and share best practices for private property. The booklet will be made available in hardcopy and online.</p> <p><i>Target Completion: December 2022</i></p>	Booklet
<p><b><i>Litter – Public Outreach Publication:</i></b></p> <p>Litter control is a component of the Property Management and Maintenance as well as Public Education requirements of the County's NPDES MS4 permit. At the Board's request, the EAC will prepare a public outreach piece to raise awareness of the issues associated with litter, particularly along roadways. This will be coordinated with DPW.</p> <p><i>Target Completion: December 2022</i></p>	Flyer or Brochure
<p><b><i>Recycling Guide for Residents and Businesses – Public Outreach:</i></b></p> <p>The NPDES MS4 permit addresses litter as it relates to water quality and encourages recycling as a form of preventing litter as stormwater pollution. In addition, contaminated recycling continues to be an issue. The Recycling Office offers a comprehensive website with many resources and quick reference guides.</p> <p>If time allows in this calendar year, the EAC will work with the Recycling Manager to prepare an additional recycling brochure the Recycling office can use that focuses on raising public awareness of various aspects of recycling and will provide more detailed information on what is and is not recyclable as another avenue to raise awareness and encourage good recycling decisions.</p> <p><i>Target Completion: December 2022</i></p>	Booklet



Topic/Project	Expected Product
<p><b><i>Invasive Species – Public Outreach Publication:</i></b></p> <p>Invasive species is a continuing problem for agriculture as well as natural environmental areas, such as riparian areas. At the Board’s request, the EAC will prepare a public outreach piece to raise awareness of the invasives species, the issues they cause, and how to prevent, mitigate, or eliminate them.</p> <p>This project is anticipated to begin after the completion of the other projects on the work plan. Therefore, it may begin and/or be completed in the next calendar year.</p> <p><i>Target Completion: Winter 2023</i></p>	<p>Booklet, Flyer, or Brochure</p>
<p><b><i>Residential Graywater Use in Carroll County – Research &amp; Public Outreach:</i></b></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: Pending availability of regulations from MDE</i></p>	<p>Booklet or Brochure</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, as needed.
-  The Carroll County Commissioners adopted the Environmental Action Awards program in 1990 to recognize individuals and groups that have exemplary accomplishments in the protection, conservation, and improvement of our environmental resources through their actions or projects. Awards are presented biennially to individuals and groups chosen from nominees



submitted for consideration by their peers, although self-nominations will be accepted. Preparation for the 2023 awards cycle will begin in the fall 2022 to be ready to roll out the public campaign to solicit nominations in early January 2023.

- 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.
- As needed, an ad hoc committee of EAC members will serve to hear and decide an appeal of any of the following environmental code chapters/sections: Ch. 53 Environmental Management of Storm Sewer Systems, Ch. 150 Forest Conservation, Ch. 151 Stormwater Management, Ch. 153 Floodplain Management, Ch. 154 Water Resource Management, and Ch. 157 Landscape Enhancement of Development.

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 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.

