



Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council

225 N Center Street
Westminster, MD 21157-5194
Telephone: 410-386-2140

Craig Paskoski, Chair
Curtis Barrett, Vice Chair

CarrollCountyMD.gov/EAC ♦ EAC@CarrollCountyMD.gov

Brenda Dinne,
Staff Liaison/Secretary
Department of Land
& Resource Management

2023 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 2023 calendar year. The EAC reviewed these topics with the Board in the annual joint meeting held on January 26, 2023.



TOPICS AND PROJECTS FOR 2023

In Calendar Year 2023, the EAC will work on the following topics and/or projects:

Topic/Project	Expected Product
<p>2023 Environmental Stewardship Booklet Update:</p> <p>The Environmental Stewardship booklet is updated every other year. It will be once again updated to reflect current data. The booklet will be made available in hardcopy and online.</p> <p><i>Target Completion: Late Spring/Early Summer 2023</i></p>	Booklet
<p>Noxious, Invasive Species – Public Outreach:</p> <p>At the request of the Board of County Commissioners in January 2022, the EAC will prepare a public outreach piece that describes noxious, invasive species that are particularly problematic in Carroll County and to agriculture. Many of the noxious, invasive species require certain management actions under Maryland law. The document is intended to raise awareness of certain noxious, invasive species and provide best practices to homeowners for their management to mitigate or prevent impact to agricultural operations in Carroll County. The outreach piece request was delayed to the 2023 work plan to spread out the workload. The final document will be made available in hardcopy and online.</p> <p><i>Target Completion: December 2023</i></p>	Booklet or Brochure
<p>Residential Graywater Use in Carroll County – Research & Public Outreach:</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>	Booklet or Brochure



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, if this committee is activated again.
- 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. The public campaign to solicit nominations for the 2023 Environmental Action Awards will roll out in early April 2023, with Earth Day (April 22) as the first date nominations will be accepted. Nominations will be due by July 31, 2023. The EAC will review the nominations and select a winner for each of the three categories – Student Engagement, Positive Practices, and Educational Outreach. The EAC will invite the Board to jointly present the awards at a ceremony at the 2023 Environmental Symposium, tentatively to be held in November.
- 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

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.

