



Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)

Frank Vleck, Chair

eac@carrollcountymd.gov

Brenda Dinne, Staff Liaison/Secretary

2019 Annual Report

2019 Work Plan Progress

Public Outreach: Stormwater Workshop for Municipal Residents



As co-permittees, Carroll County's and the municipalities' NPDES MS4 (stormwater) permit requires the implementation of the public education and outreach program to include information to the general public. The EAC developed, and co-hosted with the Water Resource Coordination Council (WRCC), an educational event for municipal residents. Residents of the Towns of Hampstead and Manchester were invited to attend to learn about practices they could implement at their own homes and properties to minimize runoff and prevent pollution.

The EAC arranged for experts to create and host stations on various related topics. Staff and guests from Carroll County Land & Resource Management, the two towns, Charlotte's Quest Nature Center, and the Manchester Valley High School Enviro Club participated. The guest organizations, EAC, towns, and County experts offered information on

homeowner best management practices (BMPs), stormwater projects in the area, rain gardens/barrels and drywells, permeable pavement, monitoring efforts, recycling, tree planting/landscaping, and more.

This event was held on Saturday, September 7, 2019, at the North Carroll Senior and Community Center.
COMPLETED

Public Outreach – 2019 Environmental Stewardship Booklet Update

The Environmental Stewardship booklet, updated every other year beginning in 2015, is intended to showcase the great work that Carroll County is doing to demonstrate good environmental stewardship.

The booklet was updated at the beginning of this year to reflect current information (as of end of FY 2018).

Commissioners' Environmental Principles

1. Maintain and improve environmental quality and natural resources through responsible preserving the county's rural character.
2. Promote land-use planning and development that respects the environment, creates healthy, safe, well-being, individual rights and opportunities for all.
3. Monitor and adequate drinking water and other water supplies including efforts to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland's rivers, streams, and natural resources for future generations.

Carroll County Master Plan Goals

1. The adopted Carroll County Master Plan seeks a holistic approach to protection of environmental resources by incorporating awareness into other activities and policies, as demonstrated by incorporation of environmental stewardship into more than 100 goals. To view these, visit the Master Plan at [MasterPlan.CarrollCountyMD.org](#).
2. Environmental Quality: Protect and enhance air, water, soil, land, and natural resources.
3. Environmentally Sustainable Development: Encourage compact, mixed-use development.
4. Sustainable Energy: Promote energy efficiency and renewable energy sources.
5. Natural Resources Conservation: Protect and restore natural resources.
6. Green Infrastructure: Implement green infrastructure practices.
7. Sustainable Agriculture: Protect agricultural lands and encourage local agriculture.
8. Sustainable Communities: Encourage walkability and accessibility.
9. Sustainable Parks and Open Space: Protect and restore parks and open space.
10. Sustainable Transportation: Promote safe, accessible, and sustainable transportation options.
11. Sustainable Economic Development: Encourage economic development that protects the environment and promotes environmental stewardship.
12. Sustainable Government: Encourage government to be a leader in environmental stewardship.

Environmental Stewardship in Master Plan
Carroll County has long been a leader in the State with programs, policies, and regulations that demonstrate our dedication and commitment to environmental stewardship.
Commissioners' Environmental Principles
In October 2011, the Board of Commissioners adopted the Commissioners' Environmental Principles. The principles serve as a framework for the Board's actions, and the Board has committed to environmental stewardship by:
1. Maintaining and improving environmental quality and natural resources through responsible preserving the county's rural character.
2. Promote land-use planning and development that respects the environment, creates healthy, safe, well-being, individual rights and opportunities for all.
3. Monitor and adequate drinking water and other water supplies including efforts to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland's rivers, streams, and natural resources for future generations.
Carroll County Master Plan Goals
The adopted Carroll County Master Plan seeks a holistic approach to protection of environmental resources by incorporating awareness into other activities and policies, as demonstrated by incorporation of environmental stewardship into more than 100 goals. To view these, visit the Master Plan at [MasterPlan.CarrollCountyMD.org](#).
Environmental Quality: Protect and enhance air, water, soil, land, and natural resources.
Environmentally Sustainable Development: Encourage compact, mixed-use development.
Sustainable Energy: Promote energy efficiency and renewable energy sources.
Natural Resources Conservation: Protect and restore natural resources.
Green Infrastructure: Implement green infrastructure practices.
Sustainable Agriculture: Protect agricultural lands and encourage local agriculture.
Sustainable Communities: Encourage walkability and accessibility.
Sustainable Parks and Open Space: Protect and restore parks and open space.
Sustainable Transportation: Promote safe, accessible, and sustainable transportation options.
Sustainable Economic Development: Encourage economic development that protects the environment and promotes environmental stewardship.
Sustainable Government: Encourage government to be a leader in environmental stewardship.
Master Plan 2030, 2019

Environmental Stewardship in Carroll County

Commissioners' Environmental Principles

1. Maintain and improve environmental quality and encourage economic prosperity while preserving the county's rural character.
2. Promote land-use planning and development that respects the environment, creates healthy, safe, well-being, individual rights and opportunities for all.
3. Monitor and adequate drinking water and other water supplies including efforts to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland's rivers, streams, and natural resources for future generations.

Carroll County Master Plan

Carroll County is among the many programs in the U.S. with the number of acres preserved through conservation easements.

Program	Acres Preserved
MAPLE	45,954
Carroll County	20,714
Land Trust	3,438
Land Trusts & Conservancies	2,517
Total	72,623

From FY 18/19, Carroll spent over \$222M in State & County funds toward achieving the goal of 100,000 Acres of land preserved.

As of October 2018, with new land areas were protected on 3,562 acres increasing total easements.

Carroll Protected 218 miles of buffered streams.

Carroll County has many different waterways.

- Upper Monocacy River
- Middle Monocacy River
- Prettyboy Reservoir
- Dulany Paper Creek
- Little Patuxent River
- Loch Raven Reservoir
- Lower Monocacy River
- South Branch Potomac River
- Lower North Branch Potomac River

Little Pipe Creek Upstream Protection Areas
The Little Pipe Creek Upstream Protection Areas encompass 58,375 and 40,270 ACs of preserved land, respectively.
Carroll County's Land Preserves Associated Element Acres
• Total Banks 563
• On-site Protection 3,351
• Off-site planning 1,475
• Other 244
Source: Carroll County Department of Parks and Recreation

For every 1,000 residents, Carroll provides 47 ACs of parks & recreation lands + 35 ACs of natural resource lands.



December 3, 2019



2019 Annual Report

Information about the SolSmart Silver Designation was added under the Solar Energy section.

The booklet is available on the EAC's webpage and was distributed via hardcopies and/or email link to the community. Hardcopies were also provided to the delegation as a reference resource.

This year, a one-sheet infographic was also prepared to serve as a quick reference. This infographic is available online as well.

COMPLETED

Report – Single-Use Plastic Bags (SUPBs) for Shopping: Reduction of Use in Carroll County

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, primarily due to cost, interference with recycling sorting equipment, and bags that aren't clean.

At Commissioner Frazier's request and the Board's concurrence, the EAC researched options available to Carroll County to reduce the use of SUPBs. The EAC researched current usage in Carroll County, alternatives to SUPBs, options for reduction of use, and pros and cons. The EAC provided its findings to the Board in a report dated March 1, 2019. The report is available on the EAC's website.

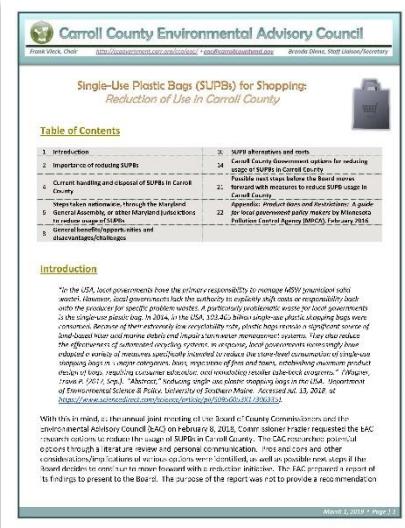
COMPLETED

Public Outreach – Guide to Becoming a Community Solar Subscriber in Carroll County

Community solar refers to a community-owned or third-party-owned solar energy generating system from which electricity is shared by more than one

household or customer. The primary purpose of community solar is to allow members of a community the opportunity to share the benefits of solar power even if they cannot or prefer not to install solar panels on their property.

As a follow-up to a report to the Board in 2018 on availability of community solar to Carroll County residents, the EAC prepared a booklet for Carroll County property owners as a guide through the process of identifying a third-party-owned community solar project and becoming a subscriber.



Through this process, the EAC identified a need to provide information to help the public understand renewable energy options as a whole. The EAC prepared *An Overview of Renewable Energy Choice Options for Consumers* as a companion document to both *A Guide to Becoming a Community Solar Subscriber in Carroll County* and *A Guide to Residential Solar Installation in Carroll County*, the latter of which was completed in 2017. This overview provides a context for the various solar options relative to the big picture of renewable energy.

The *Guide* and the *Overview* were completed in September 2019 and are available online.

COMPLETED

Public Outreach – Residential Graywater Use in Carroll County

Graywater is untreated water collected from a clothes washing machine or a 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. The 2018 Maryland General Assembly passed legislation (Senate Bill 496/Chapter 705) to allow residential graywater

A Guide to Becoming a Community Solar Subscriber in Carroll County

Subscribing to a community solar project is an exciting new opportunity to go green and save on your bills without needing to install solar equipment at your home. [Learn more now, so you are ready when subscriptions are available!](#)

Table of Contents

Issue Study
Acronyms
Definitions
Glossary
Calculating Solar Needs
Funding Available Subscriptions
Community Solar Options
Potential Cost Savings
How It Works
Pollinated Ready Solar
Adding a Community Solar Project
Contact Info

About This Document

Community solar is a solar energy system owned by a third party that is installed on a piece of land or building. Unlike traditional solar, community solar allows people to sell solar. If they do not own enough solar to meet their needs, they can buy solar from a third party. What is it? April 1, 2019, Maryland became the first state to allow community solar projects. [View the Maryland Environmental Service's community solar page](#).

Why Subscribe to Community Solar?

- Access — For those not able to install solar where they live or work.
- Cost Savings — Lower customer rates and help protect against rising energy prices.
- Climate — Reduce greenhouse gas pollution from our electric grid.



December 3, 2019



2019 Annual Report

for certain uses. The legislation requires Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to develop regulations to implement the bill's provisions.

Per the 2018 Work Plan and continued to the 2019 Work Plan, 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.

The EAC is currently waiting on regulations to be released by MDE. These regulations need to be available before the EAC can inform the public of the process(es) and requirements associated with use of residential graywater in Carroll County.

ON HOLD

2020 Work Plan

The EAC developed a work plan for proposed projects to be completed during the 2020 calendar year. On December 3, 2019, the EAC approved to recommend these proposed projects to the Board. The work plan will be finalized pending discussion, any additional projects requested by the Board, and concurrence by the Board at the annual joint meeting with the EAC, scheduled for January 23, 2020.

PENDING BOARD CONCURRENCE

Solid Waste Committee Service on Solid Waste

Advisory Council (SWAC):

One member of the EAC continued to serve on the SWAC, which is facilitated by the Department of Public Works (DPW) staff. The group serves in an advisory capacity to the DPW regarding implementation of recommendations from the former Solid Waste Work Group's report, input on potential capital projects and future directions, as well as public outreach efforts. The EAC member on the SWAC serves as a liaison between the two groups to allow for additional collaboration and input to the SWAC.

ONGOING



Actions Taken

- ◆ *Public Outreach – Stormwater Workshop for Municipal Residents:*
 - ▶ Per the 2019 Work Plan and the NPDES MS4 permit, surveys, advertising, materials, and logistical/administrative details were developed and implemented.
 - ▶ The workshop was held on September 7, 2019, at the North Carroll Senior and Community Center in Hampstead.
- ◆ *Report – Single-Use Plastic Bags (SUPBs) for Shopping: Reduction of Use in Carroll County:*
 - ▶ At the direction of the Board, the EAC members researched types of plastic shopping bags, current usage, alternatives, options for reduction of use, and pros and cons. Members began drafting the initial text of an informational report in 2018. Research was completed and the report formatted and finalized in 2019.
 - ▶ On March 1, 2019, the EAC approved the report as its final work product to provide to the Board. The report was forwarded to the Board on March 1, 2019.
- ◆ *Public Outreach – A Guide to Becoming a Community Solar Subscriber in Carroll County:*
 - ▶ At the direction of the Board, the EAC researched community solar options available to Carroll County property owners and how to subscribe to a community solar project. The EAC prepared a guide document, which was completed in September 2019. The *Guide* is available on the EAC's website.
- ◆ *Public Outreach – An Overview of Renewable Energy Choice Options for Consumers:*
 - ▶ As part of the process of developing *A Guide to Becoming a Community Solar Subscriber in Carroll County*, the EAC prepared a companion document that provides a broader picture of renewable energy options and how solar fits in that context. The *Overview* was completed in September 2019 and is available on the EAC's website.
- ◆ *Public Outreach – Residential Graywater Use in Carroll County:*
 - ▶ At the direction of the Board, the EAC began research to develop public outreach materials



December 3, 2019



2019 Annual Report

to inform residents of options for using residential graywater.

- ▶ The EAC is awaiting regulations from MDE indicating how residential graywater is to be implemented, per 2018 Senate Bill 496.
- ◆ *Work Plan:*
 - ▶ In fall 2019, the EAC drafted a proposed 2020 Work Plan in preparation for the annual joint meeting with the Board, which is scheduled for January 23, 2020.
 - ▶ On December 3, 2019, the EAC approved recommending these proposed projects to the Board through presenting them in the proposed work plan for Board discussion and concurrence.
- ◆ *Annual Report:*
 - ▶ The 2019 Annual Report to the Board was reviewed in December.
 - ▶ On December 3, 2019, the EAC approved a final product to present to the Board.

Public Education

Part of the EAC's charge is public education on environmental issues that are pertinent to Carroll

County. In 2019, EAC members participated in the following public education activities:

- ◆ *September:*
 - Stormwater Workshop for Municipal Residents in Hampstead and Manchester



Citizen Concerns/Issues

Concerns or issues are periodically brought to the EAC's attention. The EAC responded to or referred the individuals to the appropriate agencies, as needed.

- ◆ *April:* Possible spring water contamination
- ◆ *September:* New development seeding spray

Informational Briefings

Received

- ◆ *September:* Solid Waste Advisory Council Update/Status (Jeff Castonguay)

Member Activity

Member	Action	Term Expiration
Curtis Barrett Ellen Cutsail Jesse Drummond Charlene Norris Craig Paskoski Tiffany VanDerwerker Frank Vleck	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Served as current members throughout the entire year. ◆ Frank Vleck continued to serve as Chair. Craig Paskoski continued to serve as Vice Chair. (2-year terms ending in April 2020) 	--
Curtis Barrett	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Reappointed to full term; accepted February 12, 2019. 	February 1, 2023
Natalie Kartalia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Appointed March 4, 2019. 	July 31, 2023
David Hynes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Term expired. Did not seek reappointment due to work and other commitments. 	September 30, 2019
Current Vacancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ David Hynes' departure created a vacancy as of October 1, 2019. 	
Upcoming 2020 Term Expirations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Jesse Drummond's and Charlene Norris's terms will expire on January 31, 2020. They are both eligible for reappointment. 	January 31, 2020

