



Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council

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Proposed 2021 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 2021 calendar year. The EAC reviewed these topics with the Board in the annual joint meeting held on January 28, 2021.



TOPICS AND PROJECTS FOR 2021

In Calendar Year 2021, the EAC will work on the following topics and/or projects:

Topic/Project	Expected Product
<p>2021 Environmental Stewardship Booklet Update: The 2019 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 2021</i></p>	Booklet
<p>Community Solar Zoning Text Amendment – Public Outreach: At the direction of the Board, staff is currently working through the development and feedback process for an amendment to the zoning text to allow community solar systems in limited areas in the county. If the Board moves forward with a public hearing and ultimately adopts the amendment, the EAC will prepare a brochure/flyer that explains what will be allowed and the benefits of the amendment. Hardcopies will be available, and the brochure will be posted on the EAC’s webpage.</p> <p><i>Target Completion: Late Spring/Early Summer 2021</i></p>	Brochure
<p>Tree Planting Resource Fact Sheet: At the Board’s request, the EAC will prepare a fact sheet that describes these types of tree plantings and directs the public to additional resources. The fact sheet will be made available online. This item is continued from 2020.</p> <p><i>Target Completion: Summer 2021</i></p>	
<p>Residential Graywater Use in Carroll County – Research & Public Outreach: 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>	Brochure



Topic/Project

Expected Product

Upcoming Projects

Recycling – Public Outreach Publication:

Recycling is a component of the public education requirements of the County’s NPDES MS4 permit. The Recycling Office currently provides many different types of public outreach pieces. At the Board’s request, the EAC will prepare an additional recycling brochure. This brochure will focus on raising public awareness of multiple aspects of recycling. This will be coordinated with the Recycling Office.

This project will begin once the County’s 5th generation MS4 permit is issued with the specific requirements.

Target Completion: Pending MS4 Permit Issuance

Brochure or booklet

Litter – Public Outreach Publication:

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.

This project will begin once the County’s 5th generation MS4 permit is issued with the specific requirements.

Target Completion: Pending MS4 Permit Issuance

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.
- 🌍 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 EAC began in fall 2020 with the preliminary work and preparation of materials to launch the 2021 Environmental



Action Awards process in January 2021. Nominations will be due March 1, 2021. Awards tentatively will be presented at the Bureau of Resource Management's Earth Day event at the Farm Museum in April 2021 (pandemic restrictions permitting). A tree ceremony will be held around Arbor Day to honor the winners.

- 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.

