



Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council



CarrollCountyMD.gov/EAC ♦
EAC@CarrollCountyMD.gov

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

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

2025 Annual Report

2025 Work Plan Progress

Public Outreach – 2025 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 this year to reflect current information (as of end of FY 2024).



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.

The booklet is available online on the EAC website. **COMPLETED**

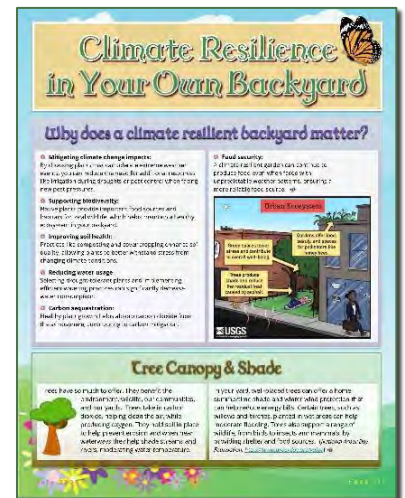
Public Outreach – Climate Resilience in Your Own Backyard

The EAC developed a public outreach piece aimed at providing residents with best practices for developing climate resiliency for their backyard lawns and gardens to help mitigate or resist to the

effects of drought and extreme precipitation events.

A public outreach document was developed that provides suggestions for lawns and gardens that help mitigate or are resistant to the effects of drought and extreme precipitation events. This included water conservation measures, lawn maintenance and alternatives, and, among other topics, climate-resilient (drought and extreme precipitation) plants and gardens.

The publication is available online at the EAC website. Hardcopies are provided at outreach events and are available upon request. **COMPLETED**



Summary of MPRP Environmental Impacts in Carroll County & Mitigation Requested

At the Board’s request, the EAC developed a summary of environmental impacts in Carroll County of the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP) transmission line alignment.

The members reviewed the MPRP Environmental Review Documents (ERD) and summarize key environmental impacts covered by the ERD. While the ERD indicated how PSEG intended to address

State requirements related to environmental resources, additional mitigation measures were identified and suggested to be requested of the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) to address gaps in State requirements.



The summary document was presented to the Board at the January 29, 2026, annual meeting. **COMPLETED**

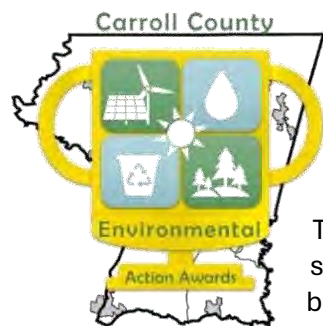
Cost Savings with Environmental Benefits

At the Board's request, the EAC will identify proposed capital projects that may provide the co-benefit of cost savings as well as environmental benefits. Relevant County Departments will identify proposed projects to be requested in the FY 2027 budget that may meet these criteria. The EAC will provide a summary of the environmental benefits of these cost saving projects.

This project was deferred to the 2026 Work Plan to allow time for relevant County Departments to identify budget requests for FY 2027, as well as to allow EAC members adequate time to approach the project. **DEFERRED TO 2026 WORK PLAN**

2025 Environmental Action Awards

The EAC presents awards biennially to individuals and groups for endeavors and projects that result in a positive benefit to the environment and have the potential for long-term community environmental



benefit in each of three categories: Educational Outreach, Positive Practices, and Student Engagement.

The EAC members solicited from local businesses the prizes for

the 2025 [Environmental Action Awards](#) that were presented to the winners.

- ♦ Spot-On Engineering Solutions, Inc. – \$1,000 scholarship to Student Engagement Award winner group
- ♦ Each of the 3 winner groups received:
 - Sun Nurseries, Inc. – gift basket and gift card to Sun Nurseries
 - JeannieBird Baking Company – \$50 gift basket
 - Local Homestead Products – \$50 gift card
- ♦ Rudolph Girls Books – a book for the Educational Outreach winner

The EAC rolled out the public campaign for the Environmental Action Awards in June 2025 to solicit nominations for the awards, including, but not limited to, preparing a flyer, news release, newsletter articles, a distribution list, information on the EAC's webpage, and more. Nominations were accepted through September 22, 2025. The EAC reviewed and evaluated all nominations, and winners were selected by the end of September.

The EAC members presented the awards at a ceremony held as part of the 2025 Carroll EnviroFest on October 25, 2025, at the Robert Moton Center in Westminster.

COMPLETED

2026 Work Plan

The EAC's primary role is to provide the Board of County Commissioners with educated information and/or advice on environmental issues. When the Board has not requested information on a specific issue, the EAC pursues projects to fulfill their secondary role of public education and outreach.



The EAC developed a proposed [work plan](#) for projects to be completed during the 2026 calendar year. On January 21, 2026, the EAC approved proposing these projects to the Board. The work plan will be finalized

pending discussion with the Board, any additional projects requested by the Board, and concurrence by the Board at the annual joint meeting with the EAC, which is typically held in late January.

<https://www.carrollcountymd.gov/government/boards-commissions/environmental-advisory-council/work-plan/>

PENDING BOARD CONCURRENCE

Actions Taken

The agendas for the EAC meetings are posted on the County's "Upcoming Meetings, Agendas, and Public Hearings" webpage; sent out via Carroll Connect/GovDelivery; and posted on the Carroll Environmental Facebook page. When virtual, access to call into the meeting to participate is available for the public. [Meeting summaries](#) are posted on the EAC webpage once approved.

- **Public Outreach – Climate Resilience in Your Own Backyard:**
 - ◆ Per the 2025 Work Plan, the EAC developed a public outreach piece aimed at providing residents with best practices for developing climate resiliency for their backyard lawns and gardens to help mitigate or resist the effects of drought and extreme precipitation events. The EAC approved the document on July 15, 2025.
- **Public Outreach – 2025 Environmental Stewardship Booklet Update:**
 - ◆ Per the 2025 Work Plan, the EAC updated the document that showcases the great work that Carroll County is doing to demonstrate good environmental stewardship. The EAC approved the booklet on July 15, 2025.
- **Summary of MPRP Environmental Impacts in Carroll County & Mitigation Requested:**
 - ◆ At the Board's request, the EAC developed a summary of environmental impacts in Carroll County of the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP) transmission line alignment, as well as additional mitigation measures requested of the PSC to address gaps in State requirements. The document was completed in September 2025.

- **2025 Environmental Action Awards:**
 - ◆ Per the 2025 Work Plan, the EAC administered the 2025 awards cycle, including a public campaign to solicit nominations, securing donation of prizes from local businesses, selecting and announcing winners, and presenting awards in a ceremony at the 2025 Carroll EnviroFest on October 25, 2025.
- **Work Plan:**
 - ◆ On January 29, 2025, the EAC and the Board of County Commissioners held their annual joint meeting to review the 2024 Annual Report and discuss the proposed 2025 Work Plan.
 - ◆ In fall 2025, the EAC drafted a proposed 2026 Work Plan in preparation for the annual joint meeting with the Board, which is typically held in late January.
 - ◆ On January 21, 2026, the EAC approved the proposed work plan as a recommendation to the Board.
- **Annual Report:**
 - ◆ The 2025 Annual Report to the Board was approved on January 21, 2026, as a final product to present to the Board.

Informational Briefings & Tours Received

- ◆ Due to the EAC's full workload in 2025, no informational briefings were provided.
- ◆ *October:* Tour of the Composting Facility at Howard County's Alpha Ridge Landfill

Public Education

Part of the EAC's charge is public education on environmental issues that are pertinent to Carroll County. In 2025, EAC members participated in the following public education activities:



2025 Annual Report

- ◆ EAC meetings and outreach products are posted on the *Carroll Environment Facebook* page.
- ◆ The EAC participated in an Earth Day event held at the Piney Run Nature Center on April 26, 2025.
- ◆ The EAC participated in the fourth annual 2025 *Carroll EnviroFest* with a table providing a digital display, information



about the EAC, and public outreach materials developed by the EAC.

Citizen Concerns/Issues

As concerns or issues are brought to the EAC's attention, the EAC responds or refers the individuals to the appropriate agencies, as needed.

- ◆ *No citizen concerns or issues that needed to be handled by the EAC were brought to the attention of the EAC in 2025.*

Member Activity

Member	Action	Term Expiration
Curtis Barrett Ashley Collier Craig Connell Charlene Norris Michele Smith Tamara Strobel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Served as current members throughout the entire year. ◆ Craig Paskoski continued to serve as Chair. Curt Barrett continued to serve as Vice Chair. The Chair and Vice Chair positions were up for election in November 2025 due to the Chair's term expiration. Mr. Barrett was elected Chair, and Mr. Connell was elected Vice Chair; they will serve in these roles for two years. 	January 31, 2027 December 1, 2028 January 31, 2027 January 31, 2028 June 30, 2028 January 31, 2028
Resignations & Term Expirations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <i>Kathleen Marasco</i> served almost one full term before resigning in March 2025 due to a change in residence. ◆ <i>Tom Scanlan</i> served one full term. He chose not to serve another term due to retirement. However, he continued to serve until January 21, 2026, once his position was filled. ◆ <i>Craig Paskoski</i> served two full terms. His second term expired October 31, 2025. 	November 30, 2025 May 31, 2025 October 31, 2025
Reappointments Appointments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ No members were reappointed in 2025. ◆ <i>Aaron Salter</i> was appointed October 20, 2025, to fill Kathleen Marasco's seat. ◆ <i>Caitlyn Fleming</i> was appointed October 20, 2025, to fill Tom Scanlan's seat. She will attend her first meeting in 2026. 	September 30, 2029 May 31, 2029
Vacancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ One seat is currently vacant. 	--
Upcoming 2026 Term Expirations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ No terms expire in 2026. 	--

Find Us on the Web at: www.CarrollCountyMD.gov/EAC

CONTACT US



By Email:

EAC@CarrollCountyMD.gov

By Telephone:

Brenda Dinne – Staff Liaison/Secretary @ 410-386-2140
Denise Mathias – Administrative Support @ 410-386-2949

By US Mail:

EAC, 225 North Center St, Rm 209, Westminster MD 21157
As of 22 January 2026 Page | 4



Environmental
Advisory
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