



Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council



Curtis Barrett, Chair
Craig Connell, Vice Chair

CarrollCountyMD.gov/EAC ♦
EAC@CarrollCountyMD.gov

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

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Meeting Summary for July 15, 2026

Members

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☒ Curtis Barrett | ☐ Charlene Norris |
| ☐ Craig Connell | ☒ Aaron Salter |
| ☐ Caitlin Fleming | ☒ Michele Smith |
| ☒ Amy Hardesty | ☒ Carole Williamson |

County Government

- | |
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| ☒ Brenda Dinne, Special Projects Coordinator/EAC Staff
Liaison/Secretary |
| ☐ Denise Mathias, EAC Admin Support |

Guest Speaker(s)

- Tyler Richards, Chaberton Solar
- Lia Morrison, Chaberton Solar

Other Attendees

- None

1. CALL TO ORDER –

- Chair Barrett officially called the July 15, 2026, meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) to order at 3:01 PM in Room 204 of the County Office Building.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES –

a. May 20, 2026

Discussion/Decision:

- No changes were discussed.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT – MOTION 522-26: Motion was made by Michele Smith and seconded by Amy Hardesty to approve the May 20, 2026, meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

b. June 17, 2026

Discussion/Decision:

- No changes were discussed.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT – MOTION 523-26: Motion was made by Amy Hardesty and seconded by Michele Smith to approve the June 17, 2026, meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Reference/Attachment(s):

- n/a

3. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS –**a. Secretary Report****Discussion/Decision:**

- The next regular meeting will be held on August 19, 2026. The agenda will be for continued discussion on uncompleted 2026 work plan projects.
- A tour of the WeCare Denali facility near the former Hoods Mill Landfill is scheduled in place of the regular meeting on October 21, 2026.

4. NEW BUSINESS –
a. Community Solar Development – Informational Presentation – Chaberton Solar – Tyler Richards & Lia Morrison
Discussion/Decision:

- Mr. Richards and Ms. Morrison presented general information about community solar energy facilities in response to an EAC request for information about community solar and decommissioning activities.
- Community solar projects generally are permitted and developed by a community solar developer and, at completion, is turned over the owner/operator that purchased the project.
- Residential solar as an accessory use on a home can take many years to break even. It can be paired with a battery to ensure the home can be powered for a certain amount of time if the grid goes down. A good installer will provide a service plan and build into the estimate costs for repairs or roof replacement associated with the solar panels. While it has its benefits, it can also be very expensive.
- A community solar subscription does not offer as high a level of savings as a paid for residential solar use. However, it can provide an alternative for those who want to take advantage of solar but cannot install on the property for whatever reason.
- With BGE, the average homeowner may see ~\$200-250 per year savings on their electric bill. Bills from the subscriber organization and BGE are consolidated to allow the property owner to see the savings in one place. The electricity that is produced is fed to the grid, and the subscriber gets credit for the amount subscribed on their bill.
- Demand has increased in the last 20 years, which has pushed rates higher.
- When siting a facility, only a few properties actually meet the criteria, such as proximity/interconnection ability to the grid, grid capacity, and environmental features.
- Upon decommissioning, the property is restored to predevelopment conditions. The requirements are noted both in the approved decommissioning plan and the lease with the property owner.
- The risk of contamination to the soil from panels is very low. The industry standard now is not to use panels with contaminants in them.
- Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) can be used with solar facilities to provide greater energy capacity to the grid. The impacts of a fire a similar to that of a house fire in terms of chemicals. Solar companies work with the local fire departments to resolve issues and provide training, which is now required by the 2025 Renewable Energy Certainty Act.

EAC Member Action Items:

- n/a

Reference/Attachment(s):

Presentation: [Community Solar](#)

5. BUSINESS IN PROGRESS –**a. New Land Uses on the Horizon – Discussion****Discussion/Decision:**

- Since the June meeting, information was added to the content outline to include State and federal requirements that could restrict what the County could include in zoning requirements. In addition, a description of each use, applications for those uses, and what the County can regulate were incorporated to the content as well.
- The members will review the content and provide feedback to Ms. Dinne by July 31, 2026, to allow Ms. Dinner enough time to prepare an initial draft from the content outline. An initial draft report will be reviewed by the EAC members and feedback discussed at the August 19 meeting.

EAC Member Action Items:

- All
 - Review content outline and provide feedback by July 31.
 - Review initial draft report and be prepared to provide feedback at August 19, 2026, meeting.

Reference/Attachment(s):

N/A

6. OTHER –**a. Charlotte's Quest Nature Fest Event**

- Mr. Salter, Ms. Hardesty, and Ms. Fleming staffed the table at the Nature Fest. Approximately 153 people participated in the event. Something additional is still needed to engage kids with the EAC exhibit.

EAC Member Action Items:

- N/A

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS & CONCERNS –

- None.

8. ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING –

- The meeting ended at 4:54 PM. The next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at 3:00 PM in Room 204 of the County Office Building.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT – MOTION 524-26: Motion was made by Michele Smith and seconded by Aaron Salter to adjourn the July 15, 2026, meeting. Motion carried.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

 Regular Monthly Meeting – Wednesday, August 19, 2026 @ 3:00 PM, Room 204, COB