



Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)

Frank Vleck, Chair

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Brenda Dinne, Staff Liaison/Secretary

2020 Annual Report

2020 Work Plan Progress

Public Outreach: Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) and Your Business

HB 109, passed by the 2019 Maryland General Assembly, prohibits the sale of certain polystyrene foam food and beverage containers that are intended to be used once for eating or drinking after July 1, 2020. Food service businesses, such as restaurants and grocery stores, may not offer food in polystyrene products after that date as well. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Maryland Department of the Environment extended to October 1, 2020, the deadline for relevant businesses to be able to provide these products to their customers.



At the Board's direction, the EAC researched the bill and its requirements. The EAC developed a one-page fact sheet aimed at helping businesses comply with the new law businesses. The Carroll County Health Department was given an opportunity to provide feedback.

The fact sheet was finalized in September 2020. It is available on the EAC's website and was shared with the Health Department to use in its interactions with impacted businesses.

COMPLETED

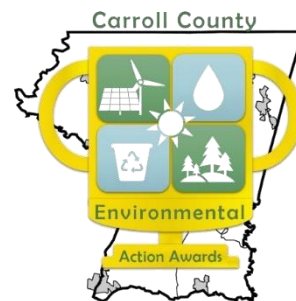
Environmental Awards Evaluation Process

The Carroll County Commissioners adopted the Environmental Awareness Awards program in 1990 to recognize individuals and groups that have demonstrated certain qualities through their actions or projects. The purpose of the awards program is to promote awareness of the environment and acknowledge exemplary accomplishments in the protection, conservation, and improvement of our environmental resources. Awards are presented biennially to individuals and groups chosen from nominees submitted for consideration by their peers, although self-nominations will be accepted.

In January 2019, in an effort to reinvigorate the awards process, the EAC formed a committee to evaluate such issues as timing, venues, and other improvements moving forward. The committee met several times between January 2019 and June 2020 to discuss the issues and prepare recommendations. A report with recommendations for changes was forwarded to the full EAC on July 10, 2020.

Based upon discussions and decisions of the full EAC, some key changes were made as follows:

- ◆ The name of the awards was changed to Environmental Action Awards.
- ◆ The awards categories were restructured, resulting in three categories rather than five.
- ◆ The nomination guidelines and eligibility criteria were revised.



- ◆ Evaluation criteria for nominations were developed.
- ◆ The venue for presentation of awards will be coordinated with another environmental event.
- ◆ A logo was created to brand the process and increase recognition.

The awards for winners will be more appealing. Sponsors will be sought by EAC members.

COMPLETED

2021 Environmental Action Awards

The Environmental Action Awards process rolls out to the public in early January every other year. The EAC wrapped up revisions to the awards process in 2020, as well as started the process for the 2021 awards.

The EAC began preparing materials to roll out the public campaign in early January 2021 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.



Members also began to seek sponsors for award-winner prizes.

IN PROGRESS

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 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 and 2020 Work Plans, 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 its 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

2021 Work Plan

The EAC developed a work plan for proposed projects to be completed during the 2021 calendar year. On October 21, 2020, 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, which is typically held in late January.

PENDING BOARD CONCURRENCE

Solid Waste Committee Service on Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC):

The SWAC, which is facilitated by the Department of Public Works (DPW) staff, 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.

Ms. Cutsail resigned from the SWAC in 2019. No meetings have been held in 2020; the SWAC has been inactive in 2020.

ONGOING

Action Taken

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the regular monthly meetings for the full EAC were suspended from March 2020 through June 2020. On July 15, 2020, the EAC began holding its regular monthly meetings again via GoToMeetings and continued to do so for the remaining scheduled meetings in 2020.



Public Outreach – Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) and Your Business:

- ▶ Per the 2020 Work Plan, the EAC members researched requirements of the State’s EPS ban on the sale of certain polystyrene foam food and beverage containers and prepared a fact sheet for use by the Health Department and to be available to the public.
- ▶ On August 19, 2020, the EAC approved its final work product. The fact sheet was posted on the EAC’s website, as well as forwarded to the Carroll County Health Department for its use in interactions with relevant businesses.



Community Solar Zoning Text Amendment Proposal:

- ▶ At the Board’s request, the EAC reviewed the proposed concepts for a zoning text amendment to allow community solar facilities on certain remaining portions in the Agricultural Zoning District. On September 16, 2020, the EAC discussed the proposal and provided feedback to staff. This feedback was compiled along with feedback from various agricultural interest groups and individual solar developers.



Awards Process Evaluation:

- ▶ A committee was formed to evaluate the process and make recommendations to the full EAC for changes. They met several times between January 2019 and June 2020 to discuss the issues and prepare recommendations. A report of recommendations was forwarded to the full EAC on July 10, 2020.
- ▶ Between July and November 2020, the full EAC discussed and decided on each of the recommendations.

- ▶ On October 21, 2020, the EAC approved the Nomination Guidelines & Eligibility Criteria.
- ▶ On November 18, 2020, the EAC approved the Evaluation Criteria for nominations.

2021 Environmental Action Awards:

- ▶ The EAC prepared the Nomination Guidelines & Eligibility Criteria for the 2021 awards process, as well as the accompanying nomination form. The EAC plans to rollout the nomination packet in early January 2021. Work will continue through the end of 2020 to prepare for the process, public outreach, and awards presentation.
- ▶ In late fall 2020, members began the process to identify sponsors for the awards to be presented to the winners.



Ad Hoc Committee to Hear Environmental Code Appeals:

- ▶ Because the EAC is also the Tree Commission and is tasked with addressing a range of environmental issues, the Board of County Commissioners will use the EAC as the body from which to create an ad hoc committee to hear and decide on appeals from any of the County’s environmental codes. On October 28, 2020, the first Ad Hoc Committee was formed, heard an appeal from the Forest Conservation Ordinance, and made a decision on the appeal.

Work Plan:

- ▶ In fall 2020, the EAC drafted a proposed 2021 Work Plan in preparation for the annual joint meeting with the Board, which will tentatively be held in late January 2021.
- ▶ On October 21, 2020, the EAC approved the proposed work plan as a recommendation to the Board.

Annual Report:

- ▶ The 2020 Annual Report to the Board was reviewed on November 18, 2020, and approved as a final product to present to the Board.

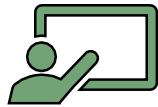


2020 Annual Report

Informational Briefings

Received

- ♦ *January:* Recycling Do's & Don'ts (Maria Myers)
- ♦ *February:* Maryland's Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (Brenda Dinne)
- ♦ *July:* Carroll County Stormwater Mitigation Projects (Janet O'Meara)
- ♦ *August:* Cascade Lake (Pat Varga)
- ♦ *October:* Piney Run Temperature Mitigation & Dam Study (Chris Heyn)



County. In 2020, EAC members participated in the following public education activities:

- ♦ Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most in-person public education opportunities were canceled. Therefore, EAC members were not able to participate in outreach events in 2020.



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.



- ♦ *No citizen concerns or issues were brought to the attention of the EAC in 2020.*

Public Education

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

Member Activity

Member	Action	Term Expiration
Curtis Barrett Ellen Cutsail Jesse Drummond Natalie Kartalia 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. Both were reelected to serve another 2-year term, to expire in August 2022. 	--
Jesse Drummond Charlene Norris	♦ Both were reappointed to their first full term starting February 1, 2020.	January 31, 2024
Cathleen Anthony	♦ Appointed February 6, 2020.	January 31, 2024
Upcoming 2021 Term Expirations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The following members' terms will expire in 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Frank Vleck ▶ Ellen Cutsail ▶ Tiffany VanDerwerker ▶ Craig Paskoski 	January 31, 2021 June 30, 2021 June 30, 2021 October 31, 2021

Find Us on the Web at:

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



As of November 18, 2020