



Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council

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2025 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 education 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 2025 calendar year. The EAC reviewed these topics with the Board in the annual joint meeting held on January 30, 2025.



TOPICS AND PROJECTS FOR 2025

In Calendar Year 2025, the EAC will work on the following topics and/or projects:

Topic/Project	Expected Product
<p>2025 Environmental Stewardship Booklet Update:</p> <p>The Environmental Stewardship booklet is updated every other year. It is intended to showcase the great work that Carroll County is doing to demonstrate good environmental stewardship. 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: Summer 2025</i></p>	Booklet
<p>MPRP Environmental Impacts Summary:</p> <p>At the Board's request, the EAC will create a summary of environmental impacts of the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP) transmission line alignment. The members will review the MPRP Environmental Review Document (ERD) and summarize key environmental impacts covered by the ERD. A short (2-4 pages) summary will be developed as a quick reference for the Board.</p> <p><i>Target Completion: Summer 2025</i></p>	Brief
<p>Climate Resilience in Your Own Backyard – Public Outreach:</p> <p>The EAC will develop a public outreach piece aimed at providing residents with best practices for developing climate resiliency in their own backyards. This might include a compilation or summary of practices such as drought resistant grass and plants. The document will be made available in hardcopy and online.</p> <p><i>Target Completion: Fall 2025</i></p>	Booklet/Flyer
<p>Cost Savings with Environmental Benefits:</p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>Target Completion: Fall 2025</i></p>	Brief



ONGOING TOPICS AND PROJECTS

The EAC will address the following ongoing topics and projects:

- 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 public campaign to solicit nominations for the 2025 Environmental Action Awards will roll out in late spring/early summer 2025. Nominations will be due by mid-summer. The EAC will review the nominations and select a winner for each of the three categories – Student Engagement, Positive Practices, and Educational Outreach. The EAC will invite the Board to jointly present the awards at a ceremony at the 2025 Environmental Symposium, to be held in fall 2025.
- The EAC will participate as an exhibitor in the annual **Environmental Symposium** organized and hosted by the Carroll County Planning & Land Management Department. This includes preparation of a display and materials, as well as pursuing any additional opportunities to enhance the Symposium.
- The EAC will proceed with developing a public outreach piece for **Residential Graywater Use** in Carroll County once regulations are adopted by Maryland Department of the Environment. This publication is intended to help provide Carroll's residents with basic information regarding graywater, its residential uses, and benefits.
- 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.
- 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 or the landfill tour in 2024. A similar tour may be arranged if the opportunity arises.
- As needed, the Board may appoint an **ad hoc committee** of EAC members to 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 significant 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.

