



Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council

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

Craig Paskoski, Chair
Curtis Barrett, Vice Chair

CarrollCountyMD.gov/EAC ♦ EAC@CarrollCountyMD.gov

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

2023 Annual Report

2023 Work Plan Progress

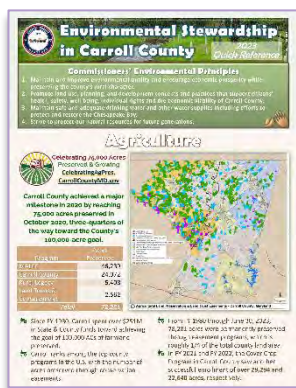
Public Outreach – 2023 Environmental Stewardship Booklet Update

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 2021).

Several new items were added to the booklet this year.

- ◆ Renewable Energy (expanded from “Solar”)
- ◆ Awards & Recognition
- ◆ Social Media & Environmental Symposium (under Public Outreach)

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 accompanying infographic serves as a [quick reference](#) to some of the key information in the booklet. This format and information in the infographic were updated as well.

The booklet and the infographic are available online on the EAC website.

COMPLETED

Public Outreach – Preventing, Managing, & Eradicating Invasive Plants and Noxious Weeds in Carroll County

Invasive plants and noxious weeds cause a profound effect on native species, alter habitats, and result in significant economic impacts to agriculture, recreational opportunities, and property.



At the request of the Board of County Commissioners, the EAC developed a public outreach piece defining invasive plants and noxious weeds. The publication described their negative impacts, offered additional resources for identifying and controlling these plants, and summarized State laws related to noxious weeds and invasive plants. In addition to sharing basic steps for homeowners to prevent, manage, and/or eradicate these plants, several invasive and noxious plants commonly found in Carroll County are highlighted.

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



COMPLETED

2023 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 2023 [Environmental Action Awards](#) that were presented to the winners.

- Spot-On Engineering Solutions, Inc. - \$1,000 scholarship to Student Engagement Award winner
- Atlantic Blue Water Services - \$500 scholarship to the Student Engagement Award runner up
- Sun Nurseries, Inc. - \$275 gift card to Sun Nurseries and a gift basket to Positive Practices Award winner + a \$75 gift card and a gift basket to the Educational Outreach Award winner
- JeannieBird Baking Company - \$50 gift basket to each of the 3 winners

The EAC rolled out the public campaign for the Environmental Action Awards in March 2023 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 30, 2023. The EAC reviewed and evaluated all nominations, and winners were selected in October.

This year, the EAC members presented the awards at a ceremony held as part of the 2023 Environmental Symposium on October 28, 2023, at the Carroll County Agriculture Center.

COMPLETED

Public Outreach - Residential Graywater Use in Carroll County

Graywater is untreated water collected from a clothing 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 each of the work plans since that time, the EAC will research homeowner graywater usage and prepare a public outreach piece to 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

2024 Work Plan

The EAC developed a [work plan](#) for proposed projects to be completed during the 2024 calendar year. On January 17, 2024, 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

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. An EAC member typically serves on the SWAC as a liaison between the two groups to allow for additional collaboration and input to the SWAC. The SWAC has been inactive. An EAC liaison will be chosen if the SWAC becomes active again.

ONGOING - NO ACTIVITY IN 2023

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 - 2023 Environmental Stewardship Booklet Update:**
 - ▶ Per the 2023 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 August 16, 2023.
- ◆ **Public Outreach - Preventing, Managing, & Eradicating Invasive Plants and Noxious Weeds in Carroll County:**
 - ▶ Per the 2023 Work Plan, the EAC prepared a public outreach piece highlighting the impacts of invasive plants and noxious weeds, highlighted a few commonly found in Carroll

County, and provided additional resources to manage or eradicate. The EAC approved the final document on July 12, 2023.

- ◆ **2023 Environmental Action Awards:**
 - ▶ Per the 2023 Work Plan, the EAC administered the 2023 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 Environmental Symposium on October 28, 2023.
- ◆ **Work Plan:**
 - ▶ On January 26, 2023, the EAC and the Board of County Commissioners held their annual joint meeting to review the 2022 Annual Report and discuss the proposed 2023 Work Plan.
 - ▶ In fall 2023, the EAC drafted a proposed 2024 Work Plan in preparation for the annual joint meeting with the Board, which is typically held in late January.
 - ▶ On January 17, 2024, the EAC approved the proposed work plan as a recommendation to the Board.
- ◆ **Annual Report:**
 - ▶ The 2023 Annual Report to the Board was approved on November 15, 2023, as a final product to present to the Board.

Informational Briefings Received



- ◆ **February:** Overview of Carroll County and Municipalities New NPDES MS4 Permit (Chris Heyn)
- ◆ **March:** Carroll County Resource Recovery Park & Northern Landfill Update (Cliff Engle)
- ◆ **April:** Introduction to PFAS (Zach Neal)
- ◆ **August:** Envirothon Overview (Jon Bowman)
- ◆ **September:** National Flood Insurance Program & Community Rating System (Pat Varga)
- ◆ **October:** Healthy Watersheds (Byron Madigan)

2023 Annual Report

Public Education

Part of the EAC's charge is public education on environmental issues that are pertinent to Carroll County. In 2023, EAC members participated in the following public education activities:

- ♦ EAC meetings and outreach products are posted on the *Carroll Environment Facebook* page.
- ♦ The EAC participated in the Carroll County Master Gardeners' Earth Day event at Piney Run Nature Center on April 22, 2023.



- ♦ The EAC participated in the first annual 2023 *Environmental Symposium* with a table providing information about the EAC and public outreach materials developed by the EAC.

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 that needed to be handled by the EAC were brought to the attention of the EAC in 2023.*

Member Activity

Member	Action	Term Expiration
Curtis Barrett Kathleen Marasco Charlene Norris Craig Paskoski Tom Scanlan	<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 will be up for election in November 2024, effective January 2025. 	--
Frank Vleck	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Resigned in March 2023 to take a break after serving 2 full terms. 	--
Reappointments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Curtis Barrett's term expired February 1, 2023. He was reappointed. 	January 31, 2027
Appointments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Craig Connell was appointed on February 28, 2023. ♦ Neal Goldberg was appointed on February 28, 2023. ♦ Monica Blumberg was appointed on June 9, 2023. 	January 31, 2027 January 31, 2027 May 31, 2027
Vacancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ No seats are currently vacant. 	--
Upcoming 2023 Term Expirations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Tamara Strobel's term will expire January 31, 2024, as she filled the remainder of Jesse Drummond's term. ♦ Charlene Norris's term will also expire January 31, 2024. She has served a full term plus three years of another member's term. 	January 31, 2024



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



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