



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

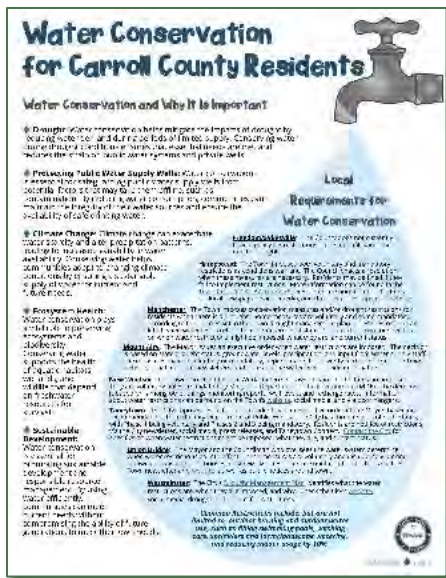
Brenda Dinne,
Staff Liaison/Secretary
Department of Planning
& Land Management

2024 Annual Report

2024 Work Plan Progress

Public Outreach - Water Conservation

In July 2023, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) officially declared a drought watch for central and western Maryland, which includes Carroll County. In September 2023, MDE upgraded the watch to a drought warning. MDE is urging public water systems, citizens, and businesses in parts of the state to continue voluntary water use restrictions.



The drought warning was based on lower-than-normal stream flows and groundwater levels for this time of year. The State increases oversight of water supply conditions and encourages voluntary water conservation practices. While the State currently has enough water to meet the needs of residents and businesses, water conservation measures are encouraged to help avoid any future water shortages.

To raise awareness of the drought situation and provide citizens with ways for conserving water, the EAC researched water conservation best practices and developed a public outreach publication that describes what a drought situation in Carroll County looks like, the impact of drought circumstances, and measures that the public can take to conserve water. The EAC worked with the Water Resource Coordination Council to ensure that the information will be relevant to residents served by public water systems. This information also applies to those in unincorporated areas served by private wells. The publication is available for distribution in the municipalities as well.

The brochure is available online on the EAC website. Hardcopies are provided at outreach events and are available upon request. Many of the municipalities provide a link to the brochure on their websites.

COMPLETED

Public Outreach - Reducing Food Waste @ Home

Nationally, EPA estimates that 24 percent of the municipal solid waste that goes to the landfills is food waste and about 60



percent of food waste in general goes to landfills. Reducing the food waste stream to the landfill may help prolong the life of the landfill. It is also a strategy relevant to the update of the County's Solid Waste Master Plan.

The EAC researched food waste impacts and diversion practices. A public outreach document was prepared that focuses on homeowner best practices to reduce and divert the food waste stream to the landfill(s).

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

COMPLETED

Outreach to Local Scouts

Carroll County Scout Troops often participate in projects that demonstrate environmental stewardship. Many troops have assisted with tree plantings or stream clean ups. To help build a rapport with the local troops and support their initiatives that demonstrate environmental best management practices (BMPs) and assist with projects that help meet the mission of the Department of Planning & Land Management and its NPDES MS4 permit, the EAC developed an outreach piece that was sent to the regional scout organizations to be provided to local troops.

The publication offers ways in which the County can partner with the troops to increase the successfulness and attractiveness of doing these projects, as well as contact information. Such

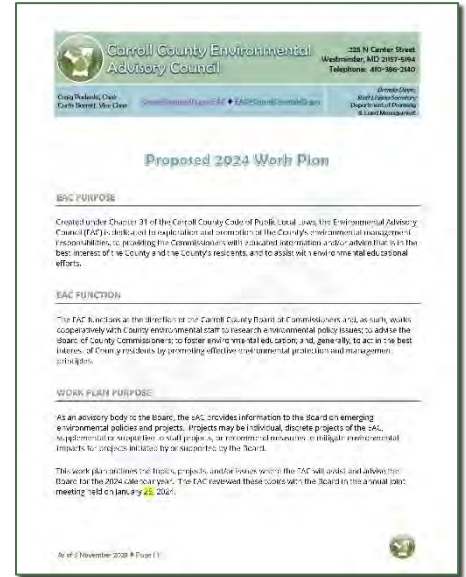
partnerships help to provide information to track and account for these BMPs.

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

COMPLETED

2025 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 [work plan](https://www.carrollcountymd.gov/government/boards-commissions/environmental-advisory-council/work-plan/) for proposed projects to be completed during the 2025 calendar year. On January 15, 2025, the EAC approved proposing these projects to the Board. The work plan will be finalized pending discussion with 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 – Water Conservation:**
 - ▶ Per the 2024 Work Plan, the EAC coordinated with the WRCC members to create a public outreach piece that provides best practices for water conservation. The EAC approved the final brochure on April 17, 2024.
- ◆ **Public Outreach – Reducing Food Waste @ Home:**
 - ▶ Per the 2024 Work Plan, the EAC prepared a public outreach that focuses on homeowner best practices to reduce and divert the food waste stream to the landfill(s). The EAC approved the final document on July 17, 2024.
- ◆ **Public Outreach – Outreach to Scouts:**
 - ▶ Per the 2024 Work Plan, the EAC developed a flier to help build a rapport with the local troops and support their initiatives that demonstrate environmental best management practices (BMPs) and assist with projects that help meet the mission of the Department of Planning & Land Management and its NPDES MS4 permit. The EAC approved the final document on July 17, 2024.
- ◆ **Work Plan:**
 - ▶ On January 25, 2024, the EAC and the Board of County Commissioners held their annual joint meeting to review the 2023 Annual Report and discuss the proposed 2024 Work Plan.
 - ▶ In fall 2024, the EAC drafted a proposed 2025 Work Plan in preparation for the annual joint meeting with the Board, which is typically held in late January.

- ▶ On January 15, 2025, the EAC approved the proposed work plan as a recommendation to the Board.

- ◆ **Annual Report:**

- ▶ The 2024 Annual Report to the Board was approved on January 15, 2025, as a final product to present to the Board.

Informational Briefings &

Tours Received

- ◆ **May:** Potential Impacts of Climate Change in Carroll County (Dan Barrie, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)
- ◆ **September:** Food Waste Reduction & Donation Laws in Maryland (Shannon McDonald, Maryland Department of the Environment)
- ◆ **October:** Tour of the Carroll County Northern Resource & Recovery Park – Landfill and Recycling Center

Public Education

Part of the EAC's charge is public education on environmental issues that are pertinent to Carroll County. In 2024, 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 an Earth Day event held at the Bear Branch Nature Center on April 20, 2024.
- ◆ The EAC participated in the third annual 2024 *Environmental Symposium* with a table providing 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 2024.*

Member Activity

Member	Action	Term Expiration
Curtis Barrett Craig Connell 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 were up for election in November 2024, effective January 2025, and both were re-elected. 	--
Resignations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Neal Goldberg served almost 15 months of his term. He resigned on May 20, 2024, due to conflicting interests. ◆ Monica Blumberg served roughly one year of her term, then resigned on June 11, 2024, due to a move out of the state. 	--
Reappointments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Tamara Strobel's term expired January 31, 2024, and was reappointed. ◆ Charlene Norris' term expired January 31, 2024, and was reappointed. 	January 31, 2028 January 31, 2028
Appointments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Michele Smith was appointed July 9, 2024. 	June 30, 2028
Vacancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ No seats are currently vacant. 	--
Upcoming 2025 Term Expirations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Tom Scanlan's term will expire May 31, 2025. He will have served one full term. ◆ Craig Paskoski's term will expire October 31, 2025. He will have served two full terms. ◆ Kathleen Marasco's term will expire November 30, 2025. She will have served one full four-term. 	May 31, 2025 October 31, 2025 November 30, 2025

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



Environmental Advisory Council *Scan Me*



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