



Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)

Karen Leatherwood, Chair

eac@ccg.carr.org

Brenda Dinne, Staff Liaison

2016 Annual Report

2016 Work Plan Progress

Solar Surface Area Requirements in Residential Districts

The EAC reviewed options for surface area requirements for solar systems in residential districts and recommended an amendment to the surface area limits of 120 square feet. The EAC researched requirements in other Maryland counties, as well as other jurisdictions around the country, and forwarded its findings and recommendations to the Board in April 2016. The

Carroll County Planning Commission reviewed the EAC recommendation on June 29 and August 3 and concurred. The Board held a public hearing on October 13, and adopted the amendment with a minor revision on October 27, 2016.

COMPLETED

2016 Environmental Awareness Awards

In January 2016, the EAC initiated outreach efforts to seek nominations for the 2016 Awards. Nominations were reviewed in March and winners in each category chosen. The EAC and Board jointly presented the winners with their awards on April 21, 2016.

COMPLETED



2016 Arbor Day Celebration

The EAC organized and held a tree planting ceremony at Carroll Community College on April 29, 2016. Trees were planted in the grove behind the college to recognize Arbor Day and to honor the Environmental Awareness Awards winners. Commissioners Doug Howard and Richard Weaver, Community College Vice President Alan Schuman, and award winners, Brett Hackett and Don West, participated in the ceremony with EAC

Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)
Karen Leatherwood, Chair | eac@ccg.carr.org | Brenda Dinne, Staff Liaison

SOLAR SURFACE AREA REQUIREMENTS IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION TO BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Background

In October 2015, Commissioner Dennis Frazier requested that staff review the maximum size requirements for solar energy conversion facilities in the residential zoning districts and provide a recommendation if warranted. His concern was that the size was not sufficient enough to contribute significantly to the homeowners' power needs. The County Administrator then directed the project to the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) to be added to the EAC's 2016 Work Plan.

www.uspowerwatch.com

The EAC members reviewed the proposed project at the January 21, 2016, annual joint meeting between the Board and the EAC. Commissioner Rothschild requested that the EAC, in preparing a recommendation, consider several factors that he indicated had been of importance to the Planning Commission during the drafting, review, and adoption process for the original requirements in 2013. These factors included:

- Aesthetics.** The Planning Commission felt that the ground-mounted systems looked like a billboard in the yard.
- Setbacks.** Ground-mounted solar systems should be closer to the house that is installing them than to the neighbor's house.
- Solar Access.** Whose rights prevail if a neighbor blocks the sun?

Currently, §158.153 Solar Energy Conversion Facilities, of the Carroll County Code of Public Local Laws, permits a maximum surface area of 120 square feet in all residential districts for ground-mounted systems. Ground-mounted systems are subject to the same five-foot setback requirements in the side and rear yard as other accessory uses, with a maximum height of 10 feet above grade. The maximum surface area for roof-mounted systems is limited to the size of the roof. Wall-mounted systems are not addressed. Additional safety and building code

2016 Annual Report

members, Karen Leatherwood and Sandy Zebal.
COMPLETED



Business Community MS4 Workshop

Carroll County's and its municipalities' MS4 permit requires implementation of a public education and outreach program to reduce stormwater pollutants, including providing information regarding water quality issues to the regulated community. As part of its public outreach charge, the EAC members worked closely with the County's EAC Staff Liaison and the NPDES Compliance Specialist to plan an educational workshop. The workshop was held on January 5, 2016. Thirteen business members attended, along with several municipalities, County staff, and EAC members. The workshop will be held again in 2018.



COMPLETED



Lightweight Aggregate Fact Sheet

Commissioners Weaver and Rothschild requested that the EAC research lightweight aggregate as it relates to its application to the use of dredge materials in relation to sediment deposition behind the Conowingo Dam. The EAC researched the topic and developed a brief fact sheet, which covers what it is, how it may be used in this context, and political benefits and challenges of implementation. The completed fact sheet was forwarded to the Board on November 3, 2016.

COMPLETED

Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)
Karen Leatherwood, Chair | eac@ccg.carroll.md.gov | Brenda Dinne, Staff Liaison

FACT SHEET: LIGHTWEIGHT AGGREGATE

Background

In 2010, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established a total maximum daily load (TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay. The TMDL identifies the level of pollutants (nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment) that the Bay can assimilate and still maintain water quality standards. Significant reductions in these pollutants are required to be made by 2025 to restore the health of the Bay.

The Conowingo Dam on the Susquehanna River has been trapping sediments since its completion in 1928. The sediments behind the dam have been identified as a major concern. The reservoir behind the dam is expected to reach its capacity for trapped sediments within the decade. With the sediments so high and deep behind the dam, large storms – such as Hurricane Agnes and Tropical Storm Lee – have scoured the sediment, sending it past the dam and into the Chesapeake Bay. The amount of pollutants sent into the Bay by one storm has the potential to negate millions of dollars worth of pollution reduction activities throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Lightweight Aggregate Description

EPA defines LWA as "a type of coarse aggregate that is used in the production of lightweight concrete products such as concrete block, structural concrete, and pavement. Most LWA is produced from materials such as clay, shale, or slate. Blast furnace slag, natural pumice, vermiculite, and perlite can be used as substitutes, however. To produce LWA, the raw material (excluding pumice) is expanded to about twice the original volume of the raw material. The expanded material has properties similar to

Use in This Context

State and federal agencies have been studying options for addressing this issue for several years. The option has been raised of dredging the materials behind the dam and reusing the materials to create lightweight aggregate (LWA) for construction materials.

(Baltimore Sun Photo by David Healy)

As of October 06, 2016

General Public MS4 Workshop

The MS4 permit also requires implementation of the public education and outreach program to include information to the general public. The EAC initiated the process to develop and hold an educational event to which



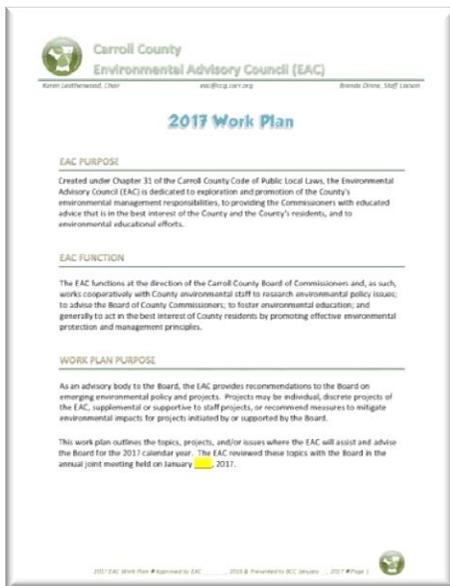
the general public would be invited to participate to learn the benefits of these practices and possible ways to implement them at their own homes and properties. This event will be held on Saturday, March 18, 2017, in the Great Hall at Carroll Community College from 10 AM to 12 PM. The EAC continues to work on the logistical arrangements, advertising, and securing speakers.

IN PROGRESS

2017 Work Plan

The EAC developed a proposed work plan for projects to be completed during the 2017 calendar year.

The EAC approved the proposed work plan on November 15, 2016. It will be finalized pending additional projects requested by the Board and concurrence at the annual joint meeting in January 2017.



PENDING BOARD CONCURRENCE

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

Two members of the EAC's Solid Waste Committee continued to serve on the Solid Waste Advisory Council, which is facilitated by Department of Public Works (DPW) staff. The group serves in an advisory capacity to the DPW regarding implementation of recommendations from the Solid Waste Work Group's report, input on potential capital projects and future directions, as well as public outreach efforts. The

EAC Committee members serve as liaisons between the two groups to allow for additional collaboration and input.

ONGOING

Actions Taken

- ◆ *Business MS4 Workshop:*
 - ▶ Advertising, materials, and logistical / administrative details were developed and implemented.
 - ▶ The workshop was held on January 5, 2016.
- ◆ *Residential Solar Surface Area Size Requirements:*
 - ▶ After researching requirements in other jurisdictions, the EAC prepared a report of findings and recommendation, which it approved on April 20 and subsequently forwarded to the Board.
 - ▶ The EAC briefed the Board on May 12.
 - ▶ Per the Board's direction, the EAC discussed its recommendation with the Planning Commission on June 29 and August 3; the Planning Commission concurred with the recommendations.
 - ▶ The Board held a public hearing on October 13 and adopted the amendment on October 27, 2016.
- ◆ *Lightweight Aggregate Fact Sheet:*
 - ▶ The EAC researched operations where LWA is manufactured from dredged materials. Harbor Rock and Maryland Port Administration presented to the EAC to provide additional information.
 - ▶ The EAC developed a fact sheet and approved it on October 19, 2016, to be sent to the Board.
- ◆ *Environmental Awareness Awards:*
 - ▶ The EAC publicly launched the nomination forms in January.
 - ▶ The EAC members reviewed the nominations and selected winners.
 - ▶ The EAC and Board jointly presented the

2016 Annual Report

awards to winners on April 21, 2016.

- ◆ **Work Plan:**
 - ▶ In October and November, the EAC drafted a proposed 2017 work plan in preparation for the annual joint meeting with the Board, to be scheduled in January 2017.
 - ▶ The EAC approved its proposed work plan (pending Board concurrence) on November 15, 2016.
- ◆ **Annual Report:**
 - ▶ The 2016 annual report to the Board was drafted and reviewed in November.
 - ▶ The EAC approved the report on November 15, 2016.

- ◆ *May:* Volunteered @ Westminster Flower & Jazz Festival
- ◆ *September:* Volunteered @ Sykesville Harvest Festival

Citizen Concerns/Issues

The following concerns or issues were brought to the EAC's attention. The EAC responded or referred the individuals to the appropriate agencies.

- ◆ *October:* Residential solar size requirements

Informational Briefings

Received

- ◆ *July:* Lightweight Aggregate – Harbor Rock (Jeff Otto)
- ◆ *August:* Lightweight Aggregate – Maryland Port Administration (Kristen Weiss Fidler)
- ◆ *September:* Energy Saver Loan Program (Andrea Gerhard)

Public Education

Part of the EAC's charge is public education on environmental issues that are pertinent to Carroll County. In 2017, EAC members participated in the following public education activities:

- ◆ *January:* Business Community MS4 Workshop

Member Activity

Member	Action	Term Expiration
Curtis Barrett Ellen Cutsail David Hynes Amy Krebs Karen Leatherwood Frank Vleck Sandy Zebal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Served as current members through the year. ◆ Karen Leatherwood and David Hynes continued to serve as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively. 	--
Murray Kenyon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Appointed February 4, 2016; replaced Melvin Baile ◆ Resigned March 14, 2016; other commitments 	January 31, 2020 March 14, 2016
Richard Lord	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Appointed February 4, 2016; replaced George Schooley ◆ Officially removed from roster for lack of response & attendance 	September 30, 2017 June 2016
Frank Vleck	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 1st term expires January 31, 2017; recommend reappointment 	January 31, 2017
Vacancies	2 vacancies to be filled – as of December 22, 2016	