



Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)

Sandy Zebal, Chair

eac@ccg.carr.org

Brenda Dinne, Staff Liaison

2013 WORK PLAN ADDENDUM **SOLAR FARMS: LOCATING AND FINANCING**

Task:

On February 7, 2013, the Board discussed tasking the EAC with studying location and financing information related to solar panels/farms. The information is to provide background to staff that have been directed to develop an ordinance to indicate where they can go. The EAC will complete the following tasks:

1. The EAC will research best practices for siting solar farms constructed for the primary purpose of generating electricity to sell back to the grid. This may include researching what other jurisdictions, particularly in Maryland, have done to address this use.
2. Research will include grants that might be available to property owners for siting solar panels on their property.
3. The EAC will evaluate options for property owners to obtain credits from utility companies and State and federal agencies.

Findings on standards and best practices for siting commercial solar operations and recommendations to the Board for those that should be incorporated to the draft ordinance will be reported to the Board. The EAC will evaluate the potential for conflict between this use and the perception that may arise with the non-traditional aspect of agriculture and provide the Board with its opinion as part of its final product to the Board.

Anticipated Product:

The EAC will provide a memo of findings and recommendations that will be forwarded to the Board.

Timeframe:

The EAC anticipates forwarding their final memo to the Board by the end of June 2013.