



Carroll County

Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)

2013 Work Plan

EAC Purpose

The EAC is dedicated to exploration and promotion of the County's environmental management responsibilities, to providing the Commissioners with educated advice that is in the best interest of the County and the County's residents, and to environmental educational 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. The EAC also serves as the County's Tree Commission.

Work Plan Purpose

As an advisory body to the Board, the EAC provides recommendations to the Board on emerging environmental policy 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 2013 calendar year. The EAC reviewed these topics with the Board in their joint annual meeting on January 24, 2013. The Board approved, with some minor modifications, the topics/projects proposed in this work plan.

Proposed Topics and Projects for 2013

In Calendar Year 2013, the EAC offers the following topics and/or projects:

Topic/Project	Expected Product
<p>Energy Use & Cost Savings: The EAC is in the process of updating the 2008 study. This study includes a review of the change in energy usage since 2008 and the progress made toward implementing cost- and energy-saving measures. Kim Petry, EAC member and physical scientist with the U.S. Department of Energy, will lead the data gathering and analysis effort. Interns and/or volunteers may be sought to assist. The EAC expects that the resulting updated summary of usage will reflect the efforts of Carroll County Government to reduce energy usage in the last four years due to conservation and improvements in efficiency, generating a substantial savings in taxpayer dollars.</p>	<p>Memo + summary graphs</p>
<p>Stormwater Fee Advisory Group: House Bill 987 (2012) requires Carroll County to adopt and implement local laws or ordinances necessary to establish a Watershed Protection and Restoration Program (WPRP) by July 1, 2013. The program must include a stormwater remediation fee and a local dedicated WPRP fund. The law is intended to create a stormwater fee that provides a means of funding the implementation of local stormwater management plans and permit requirements through stormwater management practices and stream and wetland restoration activities.</p> <p>To provide guidance on this very important issue, with the concurrence of the Board of County Commissioners, the Department of Land Use, Planning & Development will assemble an advisory group. The purpose of the group is to advise and to coordinate with County staff on evaluating options for the fee structure, identifying potential associated burden to property owners, and subsequently making recommendations to the Board. The EAC will serve as that Advisory Group, with additional Advisory Group members to represent business, finance, and agriculture. The Advisory Group will likely meet at least twice a month between February 2013 and June 2013 (or until the task is complete). Given the deadlines mandated to meet the requirements of the law, the Advisory Group will need to</p>	<p>Report and Recommendation to Board of Commissioners + Presentation to the Board + Public Outreach Materials and Activities</p>

2013 Work Plan of the Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council

Topic/Project	Expected Product
<p>work diligently to complete its work within the given timeframe. The Advisory Group's discussion and recommendations will be incorporated in a report to the Board, and the Group will present its recommendation to the Board.</p> <p>Should the County Commissioners proceed with a program which includes a fee, the EAC can serve as the lead on public outreach and education efforts to inform the public about the purpose of the fee, why it is required, and what it will achieve.</p>	

Ongoing Topics and Projects

The EAC will address the following ongoing topics and projects:

- ▶ The EAC will continue to serve in its role as the County Tree Commission, per Chapter 16 of the County Code.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ The Carroll County Commissioners adopted the Environmental Awareness 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 nomination forms and promotional materials will be distributed in the fall of 2013, with awards to be presented in April 2014.

Approval will be sought from the Board to proceed on any concerns requiring 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, 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.