



# Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)

Josh Hatkin, Chair

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## 2014 Work Plan

### EAC PURPOSE

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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

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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

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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 2014 calendar year. The EAC reviewed these topics with the Board in their joint annual meeting on January 23, 2014. At that meeting, the Board approved the work plan as proposed.

**PROPOSED TOPICS AND PROJECTS FOR 2014**

In Calendar Year 2014, the EAC offers the following topics and/or projects:

Topic/Project	Expected Product
<p><b>Energy Use &amp; Cost Savings (continued):</b> 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. Josh Hatkin, EAC Chair, will take the lead on 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 six years due to conservation and improvements in efficiency, generating a substantial savings in taxpayer dollars.</p>	<p>Report + summary graphs</p>
<p><b>Tasks 2 and 3: Solar Energy (continued):</b> On February 7, 2013, the Board discussed tasking the EAC with studying location and financing information related to solar panels/farms. Task 1 was completed by the EAC. Staff recommended changes to the zoning code and presented the proposed changes to the Planning Commission for review and recommendation. Tasks 2 and 3 of the original work plan remain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Research will include grants that might be available to property owners for siting solar panels on their property.</li> <li>3. The EAC will evaluate options for property owners to obtain credits from utility companies and State and federal agencies.</li> </ol> <p>Much of the information is already available online to complete tasks 2 and 3. However, these tasks will move forward after zoning code changes are made. This will allow the EAC to prepare information and recommendations that are relevant and specific to Carroll County.</p>	<p>Report and Recommendation to Board of Commissioners</p>
<p><b>Solid Waste Subcommittee Service on Solid Waste Advisory Group:</b> As result of recommendations stemming from the Solid Waste Work Group report in 2012, the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Solid Waste, proposes to form a Solid Waste Advisory Group. The purpose of the group is to serve in an advisory capacity to the Department of Public Works regarding implementation of recommendations from the Solid Waste Work Group’s report, input on potential capital projects and future directions, as well as public</p>	<p>Varies by project</p>

Topic/Project	Expected Product
<p>outreach efforts. If approval is granted by the Board of County Commissioners to establish the Advisory Group, the Environmental Advisory Council's Solid Waste Subcommittee would serve as three of the seven total members of the Advisory Group. The Subcommittee would serve as liaisons between the two groups to allow for additional collaboration and input. Potential projects could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Assisting with an analysis and possible justification of purchasing additional large recycling bins for distribution to County residents</li><li>▪ Evaluating leachate reduction methods and alternative leachate treatment systems, such as evaporation or constructed wetlands</li><li>▪ Assessing the feasibility of implementing a composting program and/or the creation of a regional composting facility or a material recovery facility</li><li>▪ Assisting with public outreach efforts regarding recycling</li></ul>	

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## ONGOING TOPICS AND PROJECTS

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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 January 2014, 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**

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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.