

<p><b>Carroll County</b>  <b>ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL</b>  <b>MINUTES</b>  <b>Robyn Gilden, Chair</b>  <b>Kim Petry, Vice Chair</b>  <b>Tuesday, July 14, 2009, @ 6:30 p.m.</b>  <b>Room 003/004, Carroll County Office</b>  <b>Building (COB)</b></p>		<p><b>Cynthia M. Parr, Chief</b>  <b>Administrative Services</b>  <b>225 N Center Street, Room 300</b>  <b>Westminster, MD 21157-5194</b>  <b>Telephone: 410-386-2232</b>  <b>Fax: 410-386-2485</b>  <a href="mailto:cparr@ccg.carr.org">cparr@ccg.carr.org</a></p>
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**Members Present:**

Robyn Gilden, Chair  
Kim Petry, Vice Chair  
Karen Merkle  
Dan Andrews  
Sandy Zebal  
Richard Haddad  
David Pyatt

**Members Absent:**

Chris Spaur  
Brian Rhoten

**County Government:**

Cynthia Parr, County EAC Liaison  
Mike Whitson, Chief, Bureau of Facilities  
Neil Ridgely, Sustainability Coordinator  
Don West, Sustainability Committee

Ann L. Baugher, Recording Secretary to EAC  
Maria Myers, Recycling Manager  
Scott Moser, Chief, Building Construction  
Justin May-West, Sustainability Committee

**Other Attendees:**

Andy Stine, DeMario Consultants  
Dean Camlin,  
Gregor Becker, Sierra Club

Maureen Bands, Henry Lewis Contractors  
Polly Bart, Green Builders, Inc.

**CALL TO ORDER** - Ms. Robyn Gilden, Chair, officially called the July 14, 2009 meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. asking for approval of the June 9, 2009 minutes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MOTION NO. 85-09:** Motion to approve the June 9, 2009 meeting minutes was made by Karen Merkle, seconded by Sandy Zebal, to approve the minutes as presented with the addition of Richard Haddad’s name be added to **“Members Present”**. Motion carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS** – 1) Ms. Gilden advised all items she received from residents at and after the EAC Special Meeting on July 7, 2009, regarding the Pathways Plan were forwarded to EAC members. Members present acknowledged receipt of said transmissions.

**PRESENTATION** – Mr. Neil Ridgely, Carroll County Sustainability Coordinator, introduced Mr. Dean Camlin of Dean Camlin & Associates, who led the LEED panel discussion on green buildings. Panelists included Polly Bart of Greenbuilders, Inc., Maureen Bands of Henry Lewis Contractors, Andrew Stine of DeMario Consultants, and Scott Moser, Bureau Chief of Building Construction, Carroll County Government.

Dean Camlin began by saying a strong case is being built to change the way the United States building is being done currently, using a lot more resources than the public perceived. Buildings use 40% of energy, 72% of the electricity and produce 39% carbon dioxide emissions and use 13.6% of potable water in the U.S. These percentages include the fabrication of building materials, construction and building operations upon completion. Energy Star is a system of rating efficient appliances and LEED credits may apply for using said appliances. Energy Star is also a rating system that can be applied to buildings. Green

building techniques can reduce energy, emissions and generation of solid waste while allowing for healthier and more productive occupants. Even though usually more upfront cost is involved, paybacks are realized in a short time and continue for the life of the structure.

LEED – Stands for “Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design” – a system by which building a building can be compared to baseline building techniques in order to save resources and energy. Attainment of LEED levels is measured by means of a point system. LEED 2009 levels and attainment points are as follows: Silver – 40 points; Gold – 50 points and Platinum – 80 points with new construction, schools, core and shell, existing buildings, commercial interiors and home “tracks”. Having a building LEED certified can be realized for a several thousand dollar application fee, the exact amount will depend mostly upon building square footage. Carroll County does not have any LEED accredited professionals (LEED AP) at this time or LEED certified structures.

Panelists advised the EAC that LEED is fairly new; it is not government; the US Green Building Council who developed the LEED system is a non-profit organization; it is a consensus of what green is; not regulatory but sets standards that a project team would like to accomplish; it is a lot of components – site, water, energy, quality, etc.; is third party certified; demands real attainable change; and is self-correcting and raises the bar. It is what is required to restore the environment. LEED goals include keeping pollution to a minimum since neighboring sites are affected, and important that all energy systems are tested for program efficiency. Thought needs to be given regarding storage and collection of on-site recyclables if pursuing LEED certification. Credits to achieve LEED levels fall under several categories and this calculation is done on-line by a template. No site inspections are done but applicant may be asked to submit shop drawings, etc and be able to document everything.

Mr. Scott Moser stated that it would cost \$40,000.00 for the County to have one of their new construction projects attain LEED certification. Nevertheless, Carroll County is still going after green projects without the certification.

Mr. Haddad asked what is the benefit of LEED certification?

Maureen Banks, a Westminster resident, responded that personally practicing green in her home, i.e. cork and bamboo floors and recycling is her own “feel good about helping the environment” thing. She continued by saying that LEED is a perception and society is slow in giving incentives for going green. The level of certification you wish to attain and size of project determines the cost. Green components can still be part of a project without pursuing LEED certification. For example, McDaniel College utilized geothermal wells realizing a substantial payback without becoming LEED certified. Engineers can furnish data to weigh upfront costs to determine realized payback in response to Mr. Dan Andrews’s question, “what is a reasonable payback.”

In response to Ms. Karen Merkle’s question on “any residential certification going on?” Ms. Polly Bart advised the EAC that the first LEED project in Maryland was Clipper Mill Overlook and others are in the works. Developers are advertising green.

Chair Robyn Gilden asked the panel, for the benefit of Carroll County residents viewing the LEED segment, “What are the components of LEED that people can incorporate into new and existing building projects?”

The panel advised residents to look at the green profile and to what degree the homeowner wants to go green. Check out the following websites to assist in accomplishing their goals: USGBC.org; NAHB.org,

[www.dsire.usa.org](http://www.dsire.usa.org) (for tax incentives and/or grants) and BGE's website as well. Homeowners can begin small. The panel advised working with a designer/consultant to accomplish their own personal degrees of "green". Other green ideas include – buying materials within a 500-mile radius, utilizing rapidly renewable materials, design interior and exterior lighting to avoid light pollution, reduce water consumption, don't irrigate, use native plants, be efficient with space and wherever possible, reuse existing materials, and reduce the heat island effect by using surface products and material with a low albedo, such as white concrete versus black asphalt and using white roofing materials or green roofs; Focus on low VOCs (volatile organic compounds), avoid formaldehyde, and develop fresh air and circulation systems.

A few EAC members thought LEED to be confusing to the general public.

Mr. Camlin finished the panel discussion by asking – Where do we go with this? Where do we go in Carroll County since CC has no LEED certified buildings, yet?

Chair Gilden suggested EAC members look online at the LEED certified Chesapeake Bay Foundation, a LEED platinum-rated building, and MDE's Montgomery Park building, a LEED gold rated building. MDE used crushed glass from the old windows in their parking lot, collect rain water to use to flush the toilets, utilized a green roof, all office have a site line to the outside and installed recycled carpet squares versus room size rugs.

In closing to the panel discussion, Ms. Gilden asked Mr. Scott Moser to brief the Council on what the County is doing in green initiatives.

Mr. Moser briefed the Council on a few green undertakings within the County. ~ Finksburg Library, Carroll Community College # 4 building; the South Carroll Senior Center, utilizing natural daylight, planting shade trees to reduce heat, forest resources, installing low-flow urinals, dual flush toilets, energy recovery ventilators, enhancing County Office Buildings by automatically bringing in fresh air to become healthy buildings, using variable frequency drives, installing windows with low-emissivity, or Low-E, glass, energy star roof coatings, using low VOC paint, geothermal heat and so on.

Neil Ridgely added that even five (5) years ago, the County would not have done any of these things.

Also, Mr. Ridgely advised the Sustainability website should be up and running shortly including ideas on conserving at home and in the workplace.

Ms. Gilden thanked the panelists for coming and also those in the audience, members of the Sustainable Committee for attending as well.

Mr. Ridgely thanked the EAC for inviting them.

**OPEN FORUM** – None

**OLD BUSINESS**: None

**NEW BUSINESS**: - The proposed 2010 meeting dates were brought before the EAC for approval. Motion was made to adopt.

**ADOPTION OF THE 2010 MEETING DATES: MOTION NO. 86-09:** Motion made by Karen Merkle, seconded by David Pyatt, to adopt the 2010 meeting dates. Motion carried.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS** – Issues for future consideration – Mr. Dan Andrews on the recent passage of moving forward on the WTE remains very concerned with that decision and mainly due to the amount of green house gas emissions into the atmosphere and landfill the ash. The County is utilizing energy reduction and other sustainability programs throughout the County, but seems to be 180° away from WTE.

Discussion followed in that the EAC had already weighed in on WTE and concluded the only role remaining would be to focus on moving forward and the County not backsliding in their recycling efforts and increase County resident participation.

Ms. Cindy Parr announced she would have Mike Evans and Maria Myers attend the August 11<sup>th</sup> meeting and update the EAC on WTE and recycling.

Ms. Parr continued to briefly explain the maximum obligation to Carroll County if they do not go forth and cannot find a neighboring county replacement, a cap maximum \$1.5 million dollars would be realized.

Chair Gildea suggested the EAC collect questions to ask Mr. Evans at the next meeting. Ms. Gildea added that recycling more is attainable and the 2009 Sustainable Living Fair, with thousands attending, proved that theory with having only one - 50 lb. bag of trash remaining at the close of the event.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** –

Ms. Gildea announced the next regularly scheduled meeting, an **afternoon** meeting, will be held **Tuesday, August 11, 2009, at 3:00 p.m.** in Room 003/004

**ADJOURN: MOTION NO. 87-09:** Motion made by Sandy Zebal, seconded by David Pyatt to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m. Motion carried.

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***Please inform the secretary if you are unable to attend***