

**Baltimore County Advisory Commission on Environmental Quality (CEQ)
Agenda for Meeting of December 4, 2024**

7 pm Welcome. Our new procedure for gaining access to this building began in January 2024 and has gone well. Thank you to Brian Lindley for unlocking the building's door for CEQ at 6:45 pm, and to Radu for serving as Brian's backup for this task. Brian Bernstein has taken the responsibility for scheduling Commissioners to serve as Greeters for 2025, so **please see him to sign up for your turn.**

7:10 pm Extreme heat, urban heat islands, and adaptation pathways toward protecting vulnerable people, a presentation from the Baltimore Social-Environmental Collaborative (BSEC). Ben Hobbs, PhD is Professor of Environmental Management at the Johns Hopkins Whiting School of Engineering, and Ali Enyi, MS is a PhD student at Johns Hopkins in Earth and Planetary Sciences.

7:35 pm Q & A

7:45 pm Brief Intro to Regional Water Governance Model Workgroup (authorized by the State General Assembly in July 2024) and the Urban Waters Flood Team with attention to current issues. Bob Summers, PhD is the retired Secretary of the Maryland Department of the Environment.

NOTE: Dr. Summers will provide further information to CEQ on 1/22/25.

8:05 pm Updating the CEQ Road Salt report of 2009. Almost finished! Thank you to everyone who contributed, and to Brian Fath and Andy Miller for final changes.

8:10 pm Update on CEQ Workgroup on Baltimore County Weed Ordinance (County Code 13-7-401) - No recent progress.

Of note, the County Landscape Manual was updated and sent to the Planning Board for approval November 7th without significant input from the public or the environmental volunteer organizations. That day, the Planning Board heard testimony on the importance of incorporating substantive requirements for consideration of climate change and measures such as low-impact landscaping, meadows, and green stormwater management as well as the provision of shade by major deciduous trees for walking paths and structures. Planning Board agreed to allow time for such input. Lead testimony was written by Carol Newill (for Green Towson Alliance), attached fyi.

8:20 pm Minutes of 10/23/24 - Correct and approve (to be provided at our meeting).

8:30 Adjourn. Happy Holidays to Everyone!

CEQ meetings in 2025: 1/22, 2/26, 3/26, 4/23, 5/28, summer break, 9/24, 10/2, 12/3.

Addendum to CEQ Agenda 12/4/2024:

Testimony to the Baltimore County Planning Board regarding: Stakeholder Workgroup for Public Input into Revisions to the Landscape Manual; and the Incorporation of Climate Change Considerations, 11/7/2024

Prepared by Carol Newill, MD PhD, for the Green Towson Alliance Executive Committee

Good Afternoon. Speaking for the Green Towson Alliance Executive Committee, regarding the Revised Landscape Manual.

GTA is a well-established volunteer, environmental organization including over 20 communities, with members including Landscape Architects and Planners, Naturalists and Gardeners, and Attorneys and Medical Providers.

First: GTA urges that the increasingly strong effects of climate change be explicitly taken into account. Landscape requirements have the potential to affect **resilience to the threats of climate change**, lessening some of the damage to human health and infrastructure imposed by increasingly severe flooding, heat and drought.

Climate change is mentioned in the document in Part 1 Goals and Objectives, but the quantity, quality and location of the landscape features that address climate change should be incorporated into the standards for each project condition.

For example, guidance should be given for the placement of major deciduous trees such that they provide cooling shade to structures and walking paths.

Meadows that increase absorption of storm water, and “low-impact landscaping” that require less supplemental water, should be included as landscape options and be explicitly described.

The progression of climate change risks over time should be met with a requirement for periodic, timely review of the Landscape Manual.

Second: GTA requests that the public be given the opportunity to participate in a stakeholder workgroup that the County establishes.

The process of reviewing proposed revisions, providing recommendations and discussing with County staff will require several months to accomplish.

Recognize that community members have a real stake in the effects of the final document on the well-being of people and ecology throughout the County.

Thank you for your consideration of these 2 requests.

Carol Newill MD PhD for the Green Towson Alliance
Member, Green Towson Alliance Executive Committee
Member, Baltimore County Green Alliance Steering Committee
Member, Public Health & Disaster Preparedness Committee of Med Chi, the
Maryland State Medical Society
Chair, Baltimore County Commission on Environmental Quality