



Welcome to our Newsletter!

[AEC Web Site](#)

July 1, 2013

Attend the AEC's Next Meeting!

The Annapolis Environmental Commission's (AEC) meetings are open to the public. We hope you'll join our upcoming discussion about environmental issues facing our city on Wednesday, July 3, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the third floor conference room at 145 Gorman Street, Annapolis, MD 21401. AEC meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month.

Update on the Crystal Spring Proposed Development

The AEC submitted comments to the City regarding the Crystal Spring developers' Preliminary Forest Conservation Plan (FCP), Preliminary Grading and SWM Concepts Plan, Priority Forest Clearing Justification, and variance requests for the Katherine Properties and adjacent parcels. The AEC urges the City to reject these plans and associated documents for several reasons, including:

- Move the Continuing Care Facility – its suggested placement is right on top of an ecologically vital and sensitive area
- Add missing wetlands (e.g., the mowed vernal pool) to maps
- Use existing roads instead of building new ones
- Correct the mapping of forest stand boundaries

- Protect the wetlands and hydrology
- All forest removed should be replaced at least acre-for-acre
- Recommend measures to mitigate the development's increase of greenhouse gas emissions
- Replace stormwater detention ponds with Environmental Site Design techniques, as is now required by Maryland law
- Maintain pre-development hydrology
- No discharge of additional stormwater runoff into drainage ravines and wetlands
- The developer does not provide compelling arguments for clearing priority forest or removing specimen trees

Click [here](#) to read the AEC's full comments.

This just in! The City has posted its Review of the Preliminary Forest Conservation Plan to the developer on its website. The Department of Neighborhood and Environmental Programs, the Department of Planning and Zoning, and the Fire Department all contributed to the review. There are several pages of comments, concerns, and required changes. You can read the review [here](#).

Forest Conservation Act – City Legislation

Mayor Joshua Cohen appointed a panel of two environmentalists, two developers, two aldermen and a former judge last summer, to draft a new city ordinance to remedy some of the problems with our enforcement of the State's Forest Conservation Act. The State Act, has been in effect since 1992 and was drafted with the intent to preserve certain forest and non-tidal wetlands that exist on proposed developments of 40,000 square feet or more in the State. It adds a higher standard of protection for those forest and wetland deemed high priority for retention, and sets bare minimum protection for trees and wetlands that are deemed less important. [Ordinance O-21-13](#), has been introduced to remedy some of the shortcomings of the City's current process. It is in its initial stages of review and must be reviewed by several committees, including the Planning Commission on July 18th, and other committees before it will be voted on by the full City Council. Your input and comments are welcome. Comments already received include those of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Click [here](#) to view the CBF's comments.

Climate Change – What can you do?

Human-caused climate change is already affecting Annapolis through increased storms and

flooding. Scientists predict severe consequences in following decades unless the world substantially reduces the burning of fossil fuels and the destruction of forests, wetlands, and grasslands (look [here](#)). Everyone has a role to play. The [2009 Sustainable Annapolis Community Action Plan](#) set a goal to reduce city government greenhouse gas emissions 50% between 2006 and 2012. Unfortunately, city government did not even come close to this goal - reducing emissions by a mere 4% (report available [here](#)). Overall (including the private sector), the city actually increased its emissions by 17%.

One of the key recommendations of the 2009 Plan was to purchase at least 25% renewable electricity. The city continues to purchase electricity from BGE, through the Baltimore Regional Cooperative Purchasing Committee, which obtains substantial discounts. BGE purchases its energy through a large interconnected electric grid operated by PJM Interconnection. This electricity is 43% coal, 33% nuclear, only 1% wind and a miniscule 0.04% solar (see [BGE's page](#) for more info).

By consuming electricity primarily from coal, Annapolis not only contributes to global warming, but to the destruction of forested mountains and stream valleys in Appalachia, since this is where most of BGE's coal comes from. There are a total of 31 coal-fired power plants on the PJM grid, including Brandon Shores and H. A. Wagner in Anne Arundel County, that burn coal from mountaintop removal. You can explore the connections [here](#).

You can see for yourself where some of [our coal comes from](#).

What can you do? As a resident or business owner, you can switch to renewable energy, either directly by installing solar panels, or indirectly by purchasing electricity from providers that offer 100% wind and other renewable energy offsets.

[Click here](#) for a list of renewable energy providers in Maryland. Also, you can conserve and reduce energy use. Here are a [few tips from BGE](#) on how to reduce energy use.

Chesapeake Forest Champion contest seeks nominations

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay with support from the U.S. Forest Service is soliciting nominations for their annual Chesapeake Forest Champions contest. Forests provide clean water and air, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and a host of other benefits to people. In rural and urban areas alike, trees are one of our greatest allies in reducing the pollution that flows off the land into local waterways and, ultimately, to the bay. With 100 acres of the region's forest lost to development each day, the need for local champions of trees and forests has never been greater.

The purpose of this contest is to recognize the outstanding efforts of groups and individuals from around the bay watershed to conserve, restore, and celebrate Chesapeake forests in 2013. The contest is open to all including landowners, community groups, nonprofits, forestry and natural resource professionals, schools, youth organizations, businesses, public agencies and others working in rural, suburban and urban areas. Basically, if you know any group or individual who is doing outstanding work for forests, as a volunteer or

professional, nominate them.

Nominations forms can be accessed at the link below. Please submit them to Chesapeake.IYOF@gmail.com by August 6th. Winners will be recognized at the annual Chesapeake Watershed Forum on September 28th - 30th, in Shepherdstown, WV. Registration, food and lodging expenses at the Forum will be covered for contest award winners.

www.forestryforthebay.org/files/CFC.pdf

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Suggestions or Comments? Email us at annapolisenvcom@gmail.com

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July 1, 2013 7:00 p.m.

145 Gorman Street, 3rd floor conference room

The AEC is an independent board consisting of nine City residents who are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Aldermen to be concerned with the protection and improvement of the natural health and welfare of the environment.

The views portrayed by the AEC are not necessarily shared by the City of Annapolis, staff or elected officials.

www.annapolis.gov/environment

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