



Catoctin News

Newsletter of the Catoctin Group serving
Carroll and Frederick Counties

Volume 7 Issue 4

Winter 2020

SCCG 2020 Highlights

December 5, 2020

... sincerely appreciate your engagement, and truly proud of your accomplishments in this most difficult of years.

People and New Roles

Events, Speakers, Education

1. Steve Luke became membership coordinator
2. American Conservation Film Festival Best of Fest, 2/8/20. Thanks Patti, Steve, and other volunteers
3. Ft Detrick Area B overview, 3/7/20 Jennifer Kunze, CWA
4. Drawdown training, 8/15/20 presented by Pachamaya Alliance to over 50 participants. Thanks Ron K, Barb, Patti, and other helpers
5. Pollinators in Peril, Ann Payne, 10/5/20. Thanks Kathleen
6. The Story of Plastic viewings and discussion, 9/7/20. Thanks Kerri



Operations

1. Conducted 12 monthly meetings, including December: 3 in person, 9 virtual. Thanks to Ron Kaltenbaugh, all Audio-Visual for Zoom contribution; much appreciation to Cindi Poole, Jan Barrow and Kerri Hesley for recording and publishing minutes.
2. BIG WIN: Updated and scrubbed Group listservs (electronic mailing lists) for Frederick and Carroll County, so emails consistently reach 900 addresses. Good job and Salute to Dave Barrow for helping with this.
3. Washington County Group spun off by ExCom vote, January, 2020
4. Patti Fredericks deserves special recognition as a Utility Infielder, filling in as needed for many tasks including Campfire updates, event planning, and, the highly coveted role of representing us at the Chapter ExCom meetings.

Communications and Media

1. SCCG Newsletters for Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter 2020. Published by Manager/Editor Lew Sherman and Design Editor Dee Dolan. Major undertaking and top outreach tool for the group.
 - a. Articles contributed this year by Barb Trader, Mark Gregory, Harry George, Jennifer Kunze, Betty Law, Paul Walker, Kerri Hesley, Linda Norris-Waltdt and Lew Sherman
2. Interactive Facebook Page Sierra Club - Catoctin Group Discussion Forum created in April by Sonia Demiray and Kathleen Rall.

Political

1. Group elections committee: Kathleen Rall, Cindi Poole, Betty Law
2. Lobby night in Annapolis, 2/24/20 Ron K and Paul W led groups to meet delegation members, with Barb Trader, Mark Gregory and Ann Andrex
3. Actions in support of Biden-Harris election victory:

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- a. Letter writing to swing state voters: "Golden Quill": Kathleen Rall 715 letters written (plus >300 for Georgia Senate race)!
- b. Many others also took the time to write letters, make calls, and are now helping encourage voters in the Georgia Senate run-offs: Patti Fredericks, Cindi Poole, Mike Koob, Ann Payne, the Ladner family, Barb Trader and Mark Gregory
- c. Out of state door knocking: Barb Trader

Advocacy, Outreach, Action

1. Weekly sidewalk stand up, peaceful protests in support of Climate Emergency Resolution (CER) Tuesdays, Winchester Hall. Led by Kathleen Rall, Irwin Rall, Paul, Cindi and Russ Poole, Carol Ahlum (Bob), Barb, with occasional Sunrise Frederick members.
2. Climate Emergency Resolution Advocacy and Outreach leaders Kathleen Rall and Barb Trader
 - a. Entire SCCG supported CER with actions including writing letters and having meetings with County Council members (Carol, Kathleen, others); attending and providing testimony at County Council and City Aldermen meetings and workshops; providing and publishing templates for letter writing; submitting and publishing Letters to the Editor of the Frederick News Post (FNP); and solicited support from other groups
3. Forest Resource Ordinance (FRO) /Zoning ordinance change: Advocacy and Outreach leader Harry George
 - a. Entire SCCG supported FRO with actions including writing letters to Council; attending/providing testimony at County Council meetings/workshops; providing templates for letter writing; submitting and publishing Letters to the Editor of the FNP; and solicited support from other groups including the Forest Conservation Board.
4. Group ExCom and Chapter ExCom signed on to Letter to the EPA from Jefferson County Vision and other Virginia and WV organizations, about the controversial Rockwool Insulation Plant in Ransom; subject: , "Advisory That West Virginia Entities Are Being Allowed to Operate Construction Projects In Violation of the Clean Water Act and Request for Stop Work." Paul Walker, Rosa Hance

Legislative Accomplishments and Ongoing Community Action

1. Passage of CER in Frederick City (in April) and County (7/21/20)
2. Acceptance and passage of FRO in County (7/21/20).
3. Many members continue to cross pollinate SCCG with their participation in other, like-minded groups such as the Smarter Growth Alliance, Clean Water Action, Sustainability Councils, Multifaith Alliance of Climate Stewards (MACS), Climate Change Working Group (CCWG), Envision Frederick, Healthy Soils Frederick and the Climate Reality Project.
4. Members working toward local climate solutions under the CER and Climate Emergency Mobilization Work Group (CEMWG) include Barb Trader, Kathleen Rall, Sonia Demiray, Paul Walker, Kerri Hesley, Ron Kaltenbaugh, Linda Norris-Waldt, Ann Payne, Vanessa Gress, Patrice Gallagher and Lisa Orr

Not mentioned, we've had deep, candid discussions, agreeing our actions in support of the environment will help combat social and racial inequities.

Hope I didn't miss anyone's contributions, sincerely appreciate your engagement, and truly proud of your accomplishments in this most difficult of years.

Pretty darn good!

Happy holidays.

Paul Walker, Group Chair

Sierra Club Catoclin Group

301-318-7995



Climate Emergency Mobilization Workgroup is Underway

By Barb Trader

Frederick City and Frederick County became the 91st and 99th U.S. jurisdictions to adopt Climate Emergency Resolutions in 2020.

Climate Emergency Resolutions have been adopted by 1814 governments populated by 830 million people in 30 countries, demonstrating growing support for action against climate change. Frederick City and Frederick County became the 91st and 99th U.S. jurisdictions to adopt Climate Emergency Resolutions in 2020.

Mobilize Frederick, shorthand for the Climate Emergency Mobilization Workgroup, will submit recommendations as authorized by the Joint Frederick City/County Climate Emergency Resolution (CER) in September 2021. The CER created and charged the Workgroup to recommend actions local government and the community can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and bolster our chances of thriving as the anticipated impacts of hotter temperatures and more frequent and intense storms occur.

The CER was developed to equitably implement policy and legislative actions through the lens of climate change; reduce county- and city-wide greenhouse gas emissions 50% from 2010 levels by 2030 and 100% no later than 2050; and, employ efforts to safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere.

Citizen Advocacy

This resolution was made possible, in part, because of great citizen advocacy by climate champions in Frederick County, including the Sierra Club Catoclin Group (SCCG). Mobilize Frederick is co-chaired by Barb Trader, a member of the SCCG, and Kevin Sellner, both of Frederick. Members include Kathleen Rall, Paul Walker, Ron Kaltenbaugh, Kerri Hesley, Sonia Demiray and Linda Norris-Waltdt, all SCCG volunteers.

As a community, we are fortunate more than 60 experienced and talented experts in a wide variety of related fields answered the call to serve on the Workgroup. These volunteers are researching solutions for overall effectiveness, equitable and just consideration of all residents and relevance to Frederick County, in four main areas:

- Energy, Transportation, and Buildings
- Agriculture, Forestry, and Land Management
- Health, Extreme Weather Adaptation and Resilience
- Public Awareness and Outreach

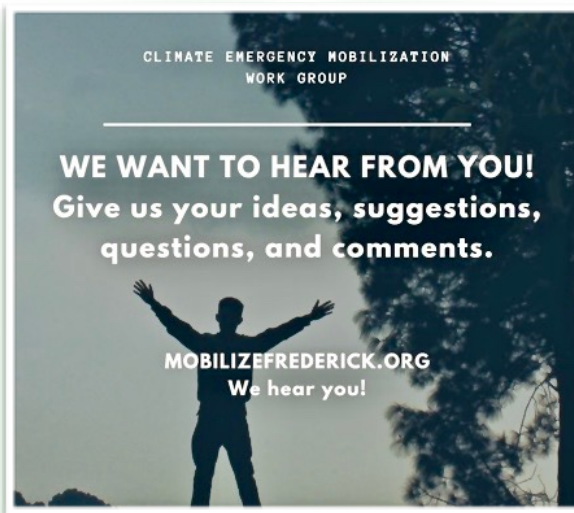
Two subgroups, Public Awareness and Outreach, and, Health, Extreme Weather and Resilience, welcome interested, avid researchers and writers.

Stay Tuned In

Other SCCG members can provide input and stay informed on the progress of Mobilize Frederick on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. The public is invited

to listen in and/or make comments during meetings the second and fourth Thursday of each month, 5:00-7:00 PM, through the public portal:<https://www.frederickcountymd.gov/8113/Climate-Change-Workgroup-Information>. Videos of prior meetings are posted here, with presentations by expert speakers on a variety of related topics.

Mobilize Frederick is featured every fourth Friday in the Frederick News Post's Green Section. Our Website, www.MobilizeFrederick.org includes a forum meant for active exchange of ideas and provides a place to sign up to receive the newsletter. We want to hear from all residents of Frederick County. Please share your ideas with us at www.MobilizeFrederick.org!



MD Sierra Club 2021 Environmental Legislative Priorities

By Mark Posner

The 442nd session of the Maryland General Assembly convenes on January 13, 2021 in Annapolis. The General Assembly will be taking a second look at environmental legislation left on the table when the 2020 session ended early due to the pandemic. One of the few environmental bills which passed -- a ban on the pesticide chlorpyrifos -- was vetoed by Governor Hogan, and the Sierra Club is asking the General Assembly to override the veto when it returns in January.

At the forefront of the Sierra Club's efforts in the 2021 session will be our continuing campaigns to fight climate change, promote clean energy, pursue transportation equity, and address the growing threat of plastic pollution.

We cannot address the climate crisis if we continue to burn coal to generate electricity. Maryland's coal plants pump a massive amount of carbon into our planet's fast-deteriorating climate, and are responsible for a massive amount of air and water pollution. It is imperative that the General Assembly act now to establish a firm timetable for retiring our state's remaining coal plants, and a fund to support a just transition for impacted workers and communities.

The Sierra Club also is supporting legislation to require the Public Service Commission to analyze the climate impacts of new electricity generating plants before granting approval, and the "Climate Solutions Now Act," which would significantly increase the state's targets for reducing our greenhouse gas emissions, and strengthen programs aimed at achieving these goals.

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The transportation sector is the largest contributor to climate change in Maryland, and public transit is key for building an equitable economy. The "Zero-Emission Bus Transition Act" would phase in zero emission buses by requiring the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) to only purchase zero emission buses, beginning in 2024, as it implements its regular, yearly program of purchasing new buses and retiring old buses. The "Transit Safety and Investment Act" would close a substantial MTA funding backlog for equipment maintenance to ensure that Marylanders can safely and

reliably use the state's public transit systems. MTA's subway, light rail, bus, and commuter rail vehicles have one of the worst breakdown rates in the country.

The Sierra Club will be working to pass several important zero waste bills. The "Plastic Bag Reduction Act" will ban plastic

disposable shopping bags at retail stores in Maryland. Two bills would establish the principle of extended producer responsibility for waste products; another would reduce consumption of single-use plastic straws, stirrers, lids, condiments, utensils, and toiletries by making these items generally available upon request-only; and legislation would increase organic recycling and waste diversion by addressing the disposal of large quantities of food waste.

The Sierra Club's yearly Lobby Night will be going virtual this session since in-person meetings with legislators in Annapolis will not be possible. Our meetings with legislators likely will take place the first week of February. Sign-up here to participate, and join our virtual kick-off event on Thursday evening, January 28.

CLIMATE SOLUTIONS NOW

Maryland can rebuild the economy with clean energy jobs.
This bill would:

Move MD's Greenhouse Gas Reduction mandate to net neutral by 2045.

- The Maryland Commission on Climate Change recommends that Maryland achieve net neutrality by 2045
- The bill will also require a 60% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 2006 levels by 2030
- Current law requires the state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 40% by 2030 and sets an aspirational goal of 80% by 2050



Protect Fossil Fuel Workers.

- A work group comprised of IBEW, AFL-CIO, registered apprenticeships, construction laborers, and building trades will be formed
- This work group will make recommendations for workforce development and training for displaced fossil fuel workers.



Invest resources in overburdened communities.

- The Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities will decide what percent of all state funds invested in climate must be spent in overburdened communities
- This provision is based on the New York Climate and Community Investment Act, which is widely considered the gold standard of state environmental justice policies



Enact simple, effective policies to reduce and mitigate our emissions, including:

- Plant 5 million trees by 2030 with 10% (500,000) to be planted in underserved urban areas of the State
- Increase EMPOWER efficiency gains from 2% to 3% a year
- Fund bus and passenger vehicle electrification
- Require air monitoring at landfills
- Require emission reductions from retrofitted large buildings
- Require new state buildings to be net neutral, with exceptions for schools



The 2020 Comprehensive Plan and Road Through Area B

By Jen Peppe Hahn, Jennifer Kunze and Betty Law

In the fall Catoctin News (see link below) we wrote about the efforts by members of the Fort Detrick Restoration Advisory Board, Clean Water Action, and others, concerning Frederick's Comprehensive Plan and its lack of consideration of the unique hazards posed by Ft. Detrick's Area B and its Superfund Site. These concerns are magnified as development continues around Area B.

The draft 2020 Comprehensive Plan is being reviewed by the Mayor and Aldermen. We have a rare opportunity to comment on the Plan since it is only revised every 10 years. The Board of Aldermen held three workshops on the Plan in December, and will hold another on January 13. You can tune into the workshop to give public comments or email your thoughts to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. Please write or call to support incorporating the language we submitted in the final draft. You can email us to review this language (see list of addresses).

We appreciate the additions to the Plan added at our request. For example, the draft sent to the Aldermen and Mayor for review includes, for the first time, a map of the groundwater contamination at Area B that will assist the Planning Commission when voting on land use.

We have provided the Aldermen/Mayor with draft edits that we believe accomplish all of the goals as listed below. Please write either in support of including our edits, or write to specifically emphasize the importance of them individually.

Recommended Changes to Comprehensive Plan

- It is crucial that the Plan directs the city's purview to offer guidance to developers when voting on land use in the areas that may be affected by the contamination coming from Ft. Detrick.
- The Plan should include language that states the city will enforce any federal or state mandates, post approval, should they arise and participate actively in the ongoing processes at Ft. Detrick.
- The Plan should include information about Fort Detrick's Superfund Site that will inform planners.
- The "Fort Detrick Leg" of Christopher's Crossing Road should be removed from the plan and replaced with our recommended edit. This effectively ends plans to build a road through the Superfund Site.
- The City should conduct an evaluation of current and projected traffic capacity needs around Area B and alternatives that could meet those capacity needs without involving Area B.

Please Write the Mayor, Aldermen & Planning Department in Support of these Recommendations

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with any questions or concerns.

Catoctin News

<https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/>

www.sierraclub.org/files/sce/maryland-chapter/

[Catoctin_Group_Newsletters/](#)

[CGNewsFall2020.pdf](#)

Officers/Committee Chairs

Chairperson Paul Walker

Vice Chairperson Cameron Bell

Treasurer Mike Koob

Secretary Kerri Hesley

Membership Steve Luke

Executive Committee Barb Trader, Harry George,
Kathleen Rall, Patti Fredericks,
Ron Kaltenbaugh

Newsletter Manager/Editor: Lewis Sherman
Design Editor: Dee Dolan



Further Information

[http://www.sierraclub.org/maryland/
catoctin-group](http://www.sierraclub.org/maryland/catoctin-group)

Food Scrap Recycling Legislation Returning to General Assembly

By Linda Norris-Waldt

Del. Lorig Charkoudian is refiling a bill similar to last year's HB589 with some changes that are a nod to the pandemic and to objections to the bill last year.

The Maryland Compost Advocacy Coalition (MCAC), a coalition of interest groups formed after last year's session, has been gathering information to propose ways to improve the bill's chances of passage this year. The bill, Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion – Food Residuals, stalled in committee in 2019 before the pandemic halted the General Assembly's work. See information about HB589 here:

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/site/Legislation/Details/HB0589?ys=2020RS>.

Changes

- A start date of January 2023 to allow the Maryland Department of the Environment staff more time to prepare regulations to reduce costs to the Department. Generators of food waste of more than two tons per week, with a compost facility within 30 miles, would be required to reduce, rescue (arrange for

donation), compost or anaerobically digest waste; in 2024, it would drop to those generating one ton per week.

- Removal of the ½ ton threshold originally set in the program's third year, which heavily affects restaurants. Recognizing that restaurants are some of the businesses hardest hit by the pandemic, this requirement was dropped.
- Requiring agencies named in the 2019 Compost Infrastructure Report (HB171) to complete and report the work they were called to do in the report, such as reporting on state land that could be used for compost facilities.
- Instituting penalties and a waiver program to give the legislation more teeth.

The MCAC, Maryland-DC Composting Council and Clean Water Action Zero Waste Coalition will be organizing advocacy efforts, which will be challenging this year due to inability to testify at virtual hearings. To join the coalition, send an email to:

djyounts@gmail.com

or lindanorriswaldt@gmail.com



Be Part of Envision Frederick County's 10-Year Birthday Celebration!

Ten years working on the social, economic and environmental vitality of Frederick County has flown by!

Envision Frederick County was founded by Kai Hagen in 2010 to establish a non-partisan, civic minded group Board of Directors with ambitious goals and a serious commitment to lead the effort of methodically building an organization, which would make a difference and become a significant piece of the fabric of the Frederick County community. Since its inception, Envision has built a solid foundation, with strong support from all reaches of the County. For our story, see:

<https://envisionfrederickcounty.org/calendar/birthday/>

We invite all Sierra Club CATOCTIN GROUP members to participate in our Virtual 10 Year Birthday Party on Sunday, January 10, 2021, from 6:30-8 pm (6-6:30 pm Virtual "happy hour" with musical entertainment!)



- Keynote address by former gubernatorial candidate, Envision supporter and Del. Heather Mizeur
 - Music, fun and online games!
 - A chance for our community to interact with each other virtually around the values we hold dear
 - Our early founders and supporters reminiscing about Envision's beginnings and ongoing impact
 - Door prizes and a silent auction of items on the theme of sustainability and resiliency and the best of Frederick County
 - Pickup of a Party Pack including Envision Party Cupcakes & Birthday Hats for our online Chorus of Happy Birthday!
- For information about purchasing tickets and/or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Linda Norris-Waldt lindanorriswaldt@gmail.com, for information.