

## Environmental Advisory Board

### 2016 Annual Report

Revised and resubmitted on 9/2/2016

#### Existing and Emerging Issues

- Imagine Cary
  - The EAB followed the Imagine Cary throughout the process and provided written feedback on Draft Imagine Cary Document.
- Town's Strategic Energy Action Plan
  - The Evaluation Plan was approved and EAB members were involved with the reporting and evaluation process. Also during the year, the Town's Fleet Efficiency Standard Procedure was reviewed by the EAB.
- Reduction of solid waste to the landfill
  - Co-location of trash continues to be an important EAB initiative that involves multiple Town staff members. The town co-located recycling with trash at a new park facility, Jack Smith Park. Additionally, the EAB recommended a policy approach to implementing co-location of recycling and trash throughout the town, by first prioritizing athletic fields and facilities.
- Natural Gas Development in shale (hydraulic fracturing)
  - No additional action this year
- Jordan Lake Drinking Water Supply
  - EAB Lead Member tracks this legislative issue and provides regular updates to the EAB. For 2016, Jordan Lake was included on the Town's Legislative Agenda that was approved by the Town Council.
- New Buildings, major renovations, energy efficiency and existing operations
  - The New Building & Renovation Standard Procedure is an EAB initiative dating back many years and involving several LEED qualified EAB members. In 2016, this was finalized by the Town and will help guide the development of new municipal facilities that meet high environmental standards. This was a focus area of the Town's Energy Action Plan. The Standards include language about co-location of recycling with trash, a preference for native plants, water conservation expectations, and more!!
- Open Space
  - The EAB is inviting speakers to discuss the role of open space in our environment. The Fish & Wildlife Service will be speaking on threatened and endangered species in our area and the role of open space in the preservation of these species.
- Tracking and Reporting Metrics
  - The EAB has investigated ways of measuring community wide carbon footprint, made contact with the World Resources Institute, seeking out example communities of similar size. This information is not readily available, so further contact with the Urban Sustainability Director's Network is recommended to initiate implementation discussions with similar sized communities.
- Climate: Resiliency, Adaptation & Mitigation
  - Lead EAB Members presented ideas and attended the regional sustainability meeting at the State Treasurer's Office. The STAR program has been discussed for consideration of pros and cons of the program.

## **Awareness and Engagement**

- Support staff on the Sustainability Communication Plan
- Advise staff on additional opportunities to increase public participation and education
  - Continued work on the Cary Garden for Wildlife Program (partnership with the National Wildlife Federation's Certified Wildlife Habitat Program). EAB Members and staff & council liaisons are all certified! The Town is over 80% of the way towards townwide certification and national recognition.
  - Cary Green Neighborhood Project was kicked off in 2016. This is a grant-funded method of engagement for citizens to promote environmentally friendly activities within participating neighborhoods.
  - Solid Waste Reduction: The EAB discussed the opportunities and challenges of labeling bins as a means of promoting more trash diversion. Additionally, research was evaluated regarding the urgency for paper recycling due to limited wood resources and the high paper needs in the world. Also this year, the EAB toured the recycling facility.
- Provided EAB representation at Town of Cary Events
  - Arbor Day
  - Spring Daze
  - Herb Fest
  - Lazy Daze
- Work with Community Groups and the Town to support Environmental efforts:
  - Information Services Advisory Board
  - Black Creek Watershed
  - Committee for the Future
  - Transportation Advisory Group
  - New Building Guidelines
  - Block Leader Program
  - Spruce Program
  - Amateur Sports Venues