

# **Durham Environmental Affairs Board 2018 Annual Report**



Prepared by the Durham City-County Environmental Affairs Board  
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### **Table of Contents**

<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>EAB Mission and Duties</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Goals for Fiscal Year 2018-2019</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Accomplishments for Calendar Year 2018</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Goals for 2019</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Community and City/County Staff Presentations in 2018</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>EAB Membership, Staff, Ex Officios and Elected Officials for 2018</b>	<b>7</b>

### Executive Summary

During 2018, the Durham Environmental Affairs Board (EAB) advocated for a renewable energy resolution, reviewed and provided input on NPDES permitting and the Durham Water Quality Index, and spoke up for equitable engagement and development. We have also engaged in and laid the ground work for further involvement in 2019 on a range of issues including a healthy urban forest, the Expanding Housing Choices Initiative, composting at Durham Public Schools, transit and mobility, economic development, and the Comprehensive Plan. Finally, the EAB won support to expand the size of the board, and we have sought to bring a greater equity and environmental justice lens to our work.

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### EAB Mission and Duties

The Durham City-County Environmental Affairs Board (EAB) is an advisory board that consists of eleven voting members and seven non-voting, ex-officio members. The EAB's mission is to recognize the importance of local cooperation and advise both the City and County on environmental issues. The eleven seats on the EAB are water resources, public policy, solid waste, energy, biological science, education, air quality, public health, law, engineering, and soil and water conservation. The EAB advocates environmental accountability in both the private and public sectors, and considers topics such as air and water quality, the environmental impacts of development and pollution, energy conservation, environmental education, climate change, green building design, greenhouse gas reductions, waste reduction, transit, urban planning, and economic development. The EAB's official duties are:

1. To advise the Durham City Council and the Durham County Board of Commissioners on environmental issues;
2. To perform other duties, such as special environmental studies, as assigned by the City and/or County;
3. To facilitate citizen education and participation in environmental matters, laws and regulations, and the local government's consideration of matters involving the environment;
4. To promote intergovernmental and public/private cooperation and coordination; and
5. To adopt Rules of Procedure, for the orderly dispatch of its business, and on an annual basis meet with the Joint City-County Planning Committee to report on past activities and develop priorities for the upcoming year.

The EAB provides a mechanism for communication with the local governments on environmental issues in Durham, and encourages residents to attend meetings and discuss issues, or contact board members with any questions or concerns.

### Goals for Fiscal Year 2018-2019

In August 2018, the EAB held a strategic planning session. Based on inputs from residents, community organizations, staff and elected officials, we established following committees to organize our work:

- Energy and Climate
- Materials and Waste Resources
- Green Infrastructure and Planning
- Education and Outreach

Based on our evaluation of the key issues before us, we set the following priorities for the fiscal year:

- Secure passage of the “Resolution Supporting a Transition to Renewable Energy, the Creation of Green Jobs, and a Federal Price on Carbon”
- Provide feedback on the Sustainability Office’s Greenhouse Gas Plan and Inventory
- Advocate to bring recycling services to all convenience stores across the county
- Expand composting within Durham Public Schools
- Research, review, and promote a strengthened tree protection ordinance for Durham
- Provide comment in support of Durham-Orange Regional Light Rail throughout NEPA process and at other key milestones
- Strengthen connection between the EAB and the broader community
- Provide guidance to Stormwater & GIS Services on Water Quality Index update, NPDES Permit process
- Expand the EAB to include an Equity/Environmental Justice seat and three At-Large seats
- Engage deeply with City/County Planning Office on the Comprehensive Plan update

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### Accomplishments for Calendar Year 2018

In 2018, the EAB achieved the following results:

#### 1. Renewable Energy Transition resolution

After hearing considerable support for renewable energy from the community and a chorus of other towns, cities and counties adopting similar resolutions across the state of North Carolina, the EAB recommended to the County and City in January of 2018 a resolution titled “Resolution Supporting a Transition to Renewable Energy, the Creation of Green Jobs, and a Federal Price on Carbon”. The resolution sets forth an aspirational vision of 100% renewable energy by 2050 and calls upon our local governments to lay out a plan for what this would require. It also calls on Durham to advocate to our utility provider and the state government to help us meet our local goals, and to our members of Congress for a price on carbon. The Board of County Commissioners passed the resolution in November 2018. The City Council is still deliberating and evaluating the proposal with staff.

## Durham Environmental Affairs Board 2018 Annual Report

### **2. Stormwater Services**

In February, September, October and December of 2018, the City's Stormwater & GIS Services Department shared topics ranging from the City's State of our Streams report, the City's Water Quality Index and the City's annual NPDES Permit process. The EAB gave input into the Water Quality Index, and provided comments and questions to help clarify and strengthen the sections of the NPDES permit most relevant to the EAB.

### **3. Equitable Engagement**

In October of 2018, the EAB passed a "Resolution for Equitable Development of Trails and Open Space Amenities in the City of Durham" which endorsed the creation and adoption of a Racial and Cultural Equity Plan. The resolution calls for the City of Durham to adopt such a plan for the Durham Belt Line, which can be a model to be used in all future bike, pedestrian, trail, park and open space amenities. This resolution was based on support for an equitable engagement plan being developed by Neighborhood Improvement Services to guide decision-making on greenways and other development in Durham.

### **4. EAB Expansion**

The EAB petitioned for an expansion of the board to add an Equity/Environmental Justice seat and three at-large seats. This change will bring a necessary and explicit focus on equity, while allowing for both added capacity and nimbleness (with the at-large seats) to address current and future issues that come before the EAB. The County passed a resolution supporting the expansion in late 2018, and the City followed suit in early 2019.

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## **Goals for 2019**

### **1. Secure Support for Renewable Energy from the Durham City Council**

The EAB will continue to communicate with city elected officials and staff about the benefits of the renewable energy resolution and advocate for its passage.

### **2. Expanding Housing Choices Initiative**

The EAB will advocate for the adoption of the Planning Department's proposed Expanding Housing Choices Initiative. In January 2019, the EAB sent a letter endorsing the plan and requested that Planning support duplex and triplexes, reduced residential parking minimums in the urban tier, and existing thoroughfare density bonus for minor thoroughfares. The Board also intends to push for the protection of trees and requisite investment in stormwater management to ensure Durham has the infrastructure to accommodate the increased density that would result from EHC.

### **3. Advocate for Transit and Mobility**

In February 2019, the EAB sent a letter to Duke University arguing for the environmental benefits of light rail. We also spoke at a public meeting in support of the project. The EAB will continue to advocate for the current light rail plan as long as it has potential to move forward. We also plan on hosting Move Durham and offering comment on Durham's developing mobility plan.



## Durham Environmental Affairs Board 2018 Annual Report

### **4. Deepen Support for Education and Community Outreach**

In 2019, the EAB will host at least one meeting at an alternate location to be more accessible. This reflects a broader desire by the board to proactively explore ways to involve more residents in environmental issues. We are also developing communications materials to articulate the role of the EAB and our accomplishments over the years, as well as launching our own social media presence in 2019.

### **5. Sustain a Healthy Urban Forest in Durham**

In 2019, the EAB will step up our advocacy for our tree canopy. In addition to our plans to champion trees under the Expanding Housing Choices Initiative, we will also follow up on the letter we sent to Planning in January 2019, which asks that the city require new developments to plant street trees next to the street; require a minimum of 10% of tree preservation onsite for all new developments 2 acres or more; provide arborist plan review and construction oversight; require a tree survey, verified by an arborist, of all trees required for preservation; and update our Durham landscape manual.

### **6. Expand Composting in Durham Public Schools**

We will continue to seek support from the City, County, Durham Public Schools, community organizations and businesses to expand composting in Durham Public Schools. Planning has already committed to a seed grant in support of this project. This initiative will teach kids about composting, recycling, entrepreneurship and leadership, and empower them to take part in collective action against a global problem; keep waste out of landfill; and create jobs in the community.

### **7. Participate in the Comprehensive Plan Process**

The EAB intends to actively engage in the Comprehensive Planning process to design the future of the built and natural environment of our community for the next 30 years.

### **8. Promote Zero Waste and Inclusive Economic Development**

The EAB will explore the intersection of the environment, the economy and social justice by assessing frameworks like the circular economy to determine applicability to our community.

### **9. Connect With Other Boards and Commissions**

Recognizing how intersectional environmental issues are, the EAB will reach out to connect and collaborate more with other boards and commissions to meet our common objectives.

### **10. Improve EAB recruitment and onboarding**

With the EAB expansion agreed upon by the Board of County Commissioners and the City Council, the EAB is recruiting new members. In particular, we are seeking to diversify our membership to include more people of color. EAB will also continue to invest time in improving our onboarding process to quickly engage and draw upon the talents of new members.

## Community and City/County Staff Presentations in 2018

Month	Subject	Presenter	Purpose / Outcomes
December	Duke University Climate Action Plan and Energy Needs Analysis	Tavey McDaniel Capps, Sustainability Director, Sustainable Duke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update the EAB on Sustainable Duke initiatives</li> <li>EAB to provide feedback on the Climate Action Plan and Energy Needs Analysis</li> </ul>
December	State of our Streams	Emily Rhode Pollution Prevention Coordinator Stormwater & GIS Services	Inform the EAB on the State of our Streams and new reporting style
November	Durham Solid Waste Management Overview	Wayne Fenton, Durham Solid Waste Management Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educate the EAB on Durham Solid Waste's activities and priorities</li> <li>Discuss opportunities for the EAB to support</li> </ul>
October	Overview of Durham's UDO – Part 1	Mike Stock, Sr. Planner, City-County Planning Dept	Educate the EAB on Durham's UDO and text amendments from a City-County Staff perspective
October	Overview of Durham's UDO – Part 2	Dan Jewell, Owner, Coulter Jewell Thames, PA	Educate EAB on the UDO from a private developer perspective
October	Equitable Engagement Resolution	Aidil Ortiz, Durham Belt Line for Everybody	Educate the EAB on an equity resolution recently passed by DOST and BPAC and advocate for its passage
October	Water Quality Index Project	Christine Cailleret, Sr. Water Quality Technician	Introduce EAB to the WQ Index project
October	Water Quality Index Needs Assessment	JV Loperfido, Assistant Water Quality Manager, City of Durham	Get EAB input into WQI needs assessment
September	Comprehensive Plan Overview	Scott Whiteman, Planning Supervisor	Educate EAB Members on the existing Comprehensive Plan and plans for an update
September	Water Quality Index Project	Michelle Woolfolk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educate the EAB on the NPDES permit</li> <li>Educate the EAB on its role in satisfying the Public Involvement and Participation requirement of the NPDES permit for Stormwater</li> <li>Provide a timeline and specific actions for EAB involvement</li> </ul>
July	Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project	Robin Baker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on Light Rail</li> <li>Potential sticking points where the EAB can support</li> </ul>
June	Renewable Energy Resolution	Tobin Freid, Manager, City-County Sustainability Office	Update the EAB on how the renewable energy resolutions are progressing within the City and County

## Durham Environmental Affairs Board 2018 Annual Report

March	Don't Waste Durham	Crystal Dreisbach, Executive Director, Don't Waste Durham	Update on Don't Waste Durham's initiatives
March	Litter Loading in Urban Waterways	Maggie Chory, Student Consultant and Jeremy Iloulia, Student Attorney, Duke University	Request EAB support for adding assessment of litter to evaluation of Durham's waterways
February	State of our Streams	J.V. Loperfido, Asst. Water Quality Mgr, Stormwater & GIS Services	Inform the EAB on the State of our Streams and new reporting style
January	Renewable Energy Resolution	Tobin Freid, Manager City-County Sustainability Office	Share community perspectives and action on renewable energy resolutions, both in Durham and across North Carolina
January	Don't Waste Durham	Crystal Dreisbach, Executive Director, Don't Waste Durham	Update on Don't Waste Durham's initiatives

### EAB Membership for 2018

#### Current EAB Members

Member Name	Expertise	Appointed By	Term Exp.	Committee Chair
<b>Executive Committee:</b>				
Matt Kopac (Chair)	Public Policy	County	06-30-2020	EAB Operations
Jessalee Landfried (Vice Chair)	Law	City	06-01-2019	Green Planning & Infrastructure
Donald Addu (Secy)	Education	County	06-30-2021	
<b>Members:</b>				
Casey Collins	Energy	City	06-01-2019	
Matthew Herman	Air Quality	County	06-30-2021	Energy & Climate
Laura Marie Davis	Land Resources	Soil & Water Conserv. Board	06-30-2021	
Tyjuanna LaBennett	Public Health	County	06-30-2021	Education & Outreach
Rachel McIntosh-Kastrinsky	Biological Resources	City	06-30-2020	Energy & Climate
Matthew Pait	Engineering	County	06-30-2019	
Wafa Khalil	Water Resources	City	06-01-2021	
Roberto Valle Kinloch	Solid Waste	City	06-01-2021	Materials/Waste



## **Durham Environmental Affairs Board 2018 Annual Report**

### **EAB Members Who Rolled off the Board in 2018**

Mark Koegel  
Elizabeth Chan  
Mark DeWitt  
Nancy LaPlaca  
Barrington Ross  
Stephen Senter

### **2018 Durham Environmental Affairs Board Staff Liaison**

Laura Woods, Planner, Durham City-County Planning

### **2018 Durham Environmental Affairs Board Ex-Officio Members**

City Solid Waste Management, City-County Planning Director, City Public Works Director, City Water Management Director, County Health Department, Durham County Environmental Health Department, City-County Sustainability Manager

### **2018 Durham Environmental Affairs Board City Council Representative**

Council Member Javiera Caballero, Council Member DeDreana Freeman

### **2018 Durham Environmental Affairs Board County Board of Commissioners Representative**

Commissioner Heidi Carter