

Held on-line and by phone through Webex
Meeting login info: ([Webex info](#))

January 14, 2021
7pm-9pm

Attendees

Christine Conn	Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB)
Olivia Farrow	ESB
Natasha Shangold	Guest
Patricia Hersey	Less Plastic Please
Ned Tillman	Guest
Sydney Harris	Product Stewardship Institute
Robin Hessey	Guest
Mark Southerland	Guest
Ruth Alice White	HoCo Climate Action
Nancy McAllister	ESB
Amber Butler	ESB
Brook Abercrombie	ESB
Larry Liebesman	ESB
Josh Feldmark	Office of Community Sustainability (OCS)
Kim Drake	Columbia Association Climate Change Committee
Marisa Olszewski	Rec & Parks: Robinson Nature Center
Mandy Elder	Guest
Liz Feighner	HoCo Climate Action
Matthew Hoover	OCS

Minutes

7:05 PM – Ms. Conn began the meeting and had everyone who was in attendance introduce themselves.

1.) [Product Stewardship Institute](#): Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) 101 – Sydney Harris

Ms. Harris provided the presentation to the Board and the guests in attendance. She started off by providing a background of the Product Stewardship Institute. They are a national non-profit organization and have been around since the year 2000. They focus on Environmental and Human Health through the lens of producer responsibility.

The topic she spoke about was Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and her focus was on packaging. EPR shifts the responsibility of recycling to the producers to make them responsible for the packaging at the end of its life cycle. The concept is that the producers are the ones who choose the packaging to put their products in, so they should figure out what happens to the packaging at the end of its life and to also figure out better ways to package their products.

The bill she wanted to present to the ESB was MD House Bill 36 2021. The Product Stewardship Institute has been assisting with the creation of this bill. The bill would implement an EPR for packaging in the state of Maryland. For more information regarding the bill please click on the following link. <https://legiscan.com/MD/text/HB36/2021>

2.) Meeting Minutes: November 12, 2020 (Vote)

Mr. Liebersman motioned to approve, and the motion was seconded by Ms. Abercrombie. All members in attendance approved the November 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

3.) Director's Report – Office of Community Sustainability: Josh Feldmark

The County Council is reviewing the Forest Conservation Manual this month.

In February we will be putting in front of the Planning Board a series of zoning regulation amendments (ZRA) based off the work of the Solar Task Force. It will go to the Zoning Board for review in March.

In February they are going hold a meeting that will present in detail the work that is coming forward through the Power Purchase Agreement.

4.) Committee Updates

Legislative Breakfast update – There were 92 participants that attended the online breakfast. Howard Community College assisted with the Breakfast. Dr. Sacoby Wilson provided the Keynote presentation on Environment Justice. They are gathering all the materials together to send to the people who were in attendance. They discussed the possibility of doing a hybrid Legislative Breakfast next year, so people can attend in person or online.

Resiliency Sub-Committee – Mr. Liebersman provided the update. They came up with an objective statement and he shared it with the Board. A few of their goals are focusing on socially vulnerable and marginalized communities, encouraging use of green Infrastructure and the use of best available science through the climate resiliency lens. Looking at socially vulnerable communities will be a major focus of the committee. They have also been coordinating with the Columbia Association Climate group. The Columbia Association Climate Group is submitting an RFP to do a pilot for a climate vulnerability assessment at Wilde Lake Village.

The Environmental Diversity Justice and Equity sub-committee (EDJE) – Ms. Abercrombie provided an update from December's EDJE meeting. They had two speakers from [Changing the Lens](#) meet with their group. Changing the Lens provides presentations and works with people to look at issues from a different perspective. A focus of their discussion was on how to get people who are affected by different environmental decisions, that typically do not have voice, to participate in and have an influence on the decisions that are being made in their communities or that have an impact on their communities. They also discussed getting in contact with the Howard County Racial Equity Task Force and the possibility of having the EDJE Sub-Committee or the ESB meet with them.

5.) Announcements

ESB is looking for a current member to fill the position of Vice Chair.

Howard County hired Dr. Denise Boston as their first Equity Manager. ([Link](#))

Ms. Conn is looking for Agenda items and suggestions from ESB members.

Howard County Green Drinks: <https://www.facebook.com/hocogreendrinks/>

HoCo Climate Action Event Page: <http://www.hococlimateaction.org/events/MD-DC-Events>

Meeting adjourned at 8:39PM.