

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

October 8, 2020  
7pm-9pm

### Attendees

Ann Strozyk	Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB)
Olivia Farrow	ESB
Kelly Hensing	ESB
Joshua Feldmark	Office of Community Sustainability (OCS)
Nancy McAllister	ESB
Mark Southerland	Resident
Chiara D'Amore	Community Ecology Institute
Kim Drake	CA Climate Change Committee
Marissa Olszewski	Resident
Matthew Hoover	OCS

### Minutes

7:02 PM – Ms. Strozyk began the meeting and had everyone who was in attendance introduce themselves. She introduced Ms. D'Amore who provided a presentation about the Community Ecology Institute.

**1.) Community Ecology Institute – Chiara D' Amore ([Community Ecology Institute](#))**

Ms. D'Amore presented and displayed a Power Point presentation about the Community Ecology Institute. The Community Ecology Institute is a Howard County based non-profit organization. It was started about five years ago and their mission is to cultivate communities where people and nature thrive together. One of their goals is to get groups outside doing environmental stewardship work.

One of their projects is a Columbia farm they purchased in 2019. Their goal is to create a community learning farm and a community ecology center where people can get hands on experience. For more information regarding the Community Ecology Institute please visit their [website](#).

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

The revised Forest Conservation Act was passed, and they are now working on the updates to the Forest Conservation Manual. They created a task force that represents the industry, advocates and citizens to assist with recommendations on changes to the manual.

In April 2020, Howard County entered a Solar Power Purchase agreement with KDC. They are currently working on the details of implementing the agreement. Approximately 30 percent of

Howard County Government power will be generated through this project from Howard County land. ([HocoPPA](#))

The County is working on the details to convert their street lights to LEDs. The goal is to have them all converted by 2025.

OCS along with the Howard County Soil Conservation and Howard County Economic Development started a new pilot program to harvest deer. Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) money is being used to fund the program. A couple goals of the program is to assist with controlling the deer population and to provide protein to local food banks. ([Link](#))

Mr. Feldmark announced that Ms. Olszewski the new Sustainability Director for Rec & Parks is in attendance and she will be presenting at a future meeting. The goal of the new position is to identify sustainability opportunities within her department.

### **3.) Committee Updates/Announcements**

Ms. Farrow gave an update about the planning advisory committee. They were officially appointed today, and it is called HoCo by Design. ([Link](#)) They will support the County's extensive outreach to not only engage the public in the planning process, but also share ideas based on members experience, the geographic reaches they represent and subject matter expertise. The first meeting is October 14<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Hoover provided what he had for the ESB Committee list. The Board decided to discuss the committees and the committee membership at an upcoming meeting.

A discussion was had on if they should have the Legislative Breakfast. A suggestion was made to do a virtual Legislative Breakfast with two or three speakers. No determination was made, and they decided to discuss it again at an upcoming meeting.

They discussed the Green Apple Award and if they should award it this year. They decided they would present the award this year and they are going to figure out how they can do it. ([link](#))

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.