

# Commission for the Environment

The Commission for the Environment advises the Orange County Board of County Commissioners on matters affecting the natural environment.

This responsibility generally includes the following:

- advising on environmental policy,
- making recommendations on environmental initiatives,
- promoting education of the public and local officials on environmental issues, and
- conducting special environmental studies and projects.



The Commission for the Environment is a citizen advisory board comprised of 15 members, appointed by the Board of County Commissioners.

To apply go to: [www.co.orange.nc.us/boards/apply.asp](http://www.co.orange.nc.us/boards/apply.asp)

## Members:

May Becker, Peter Cada, Loren Hintz, Donna Lee Jones, Cliff Leath, David Neal, William Newby, Steven Niezgoda, Jeanette O'Connor, Rebecca Ray, Jan Sassaman, Gary Saunders, Lydia Wegman, David Welch

## Membership:

- Members of the Commission for the Environment must be Orange County residents.
- Members are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners and serve at the pleasure of the board.
- The CFE has 15 appointed members with specific expertise in:
  - Air Quality
  - Biological Sciences
  - Water Resources
  - Engineering
  - Land Conservation
  - Environmental Education

## Meetings:

**When:** 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. [No July meeting]

**Where:** Two rotating locations:

- *Orange County Solid Waste Management Department Offices,*  
1207 Eubanks Road, Chapel Hill
- *Richard Whitted Meeting Facility,*  
300 West Tryon Street, Hillsborough



Contact the DEAPR office for more information: 919-245-2510



# Orange County Environmental Summit



Maple View Agricultural Education Center  
October 11, 2014—9:30 am to Noon

# State of the Environment 2014

The 2014 State of the Environment report provides information and recommendations intended to facilitate policy decisions that affect Orange County's natural resources.

## *The purpose is to:*

- Describe the current status of Orange County's natural environment
- Provide measures to monitor and evaluate progress toward a cleaner, healthier environment
- Highlight the major environmental challenges facing the County
- Recommend actions to confront these challenges

The report uses 20 environmental indicators to measure progress toward environmental goals in the topical areas of air and energy resources, land resources, and water resources. Recommendations for each environmental indicator were developed along with critical issues faced by the County.

## *Critical Issues:*

1. **Air and Energy Resources**—We need to improve air quality, chiefly by reducing our reliance on cars. Reducing energy use is the first step in fighting climate change. The County has improved the energy efficiency of its buildings; we can build on this by investing more in energy-efficiency programs for residential and commercial buildings.
2. **Land Resources**—Invasive, non-native, plant and animal species threaten the biological diversity of Orange County's aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. Non-native species replace natives, threatening critical ecosystem services such as plant pollination and posing risks to livestock, land, and public health.
3. **Water Resources**—Important data on our surface water and ground-water will be unknown due to reductions in State-led data collection efforts. Also, if drilling for natural gas occurs in the Deep River basin, nearby Orange County residents could experience negative impacts to air quality, water quality and supply, and infrastructure.

See the full report at [http://www.co.orange.nc.us/ercd/2014\\_SOE\\_index.asp](http://www.co.orange.nc.us/ercd/2014_SOE_index.asp)



## Orange County Environmental Summit

### Agenda

9:30am **Gathering and Refreshments**

10:00 **Welcome**

Jan Sassaman, Chair, Commission for the Environment (CFE)

10:05 **Introductory Remarks**

Alice Gordon, Orange County Board of Commissioners

10:12 **Presentation of the *State of the Environment 2014***

Rich Shaw, Orange County Land Conservation Manager

10:25 **Keynote Address: *Environmental Sustainability in a World of Change: Lessons from the Land***

**Dr. Norm Christensen**, Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University

Introduction by Jan Sassaman, CFE Chair  
Questions and Answers



11:00 **Panel Speakers:**

**Johnny Randall**, North Carolina Botanical Garden

*Controlling Invasive Plants: Working Smarter – Not Harder*

**Don Francisco**, University of NC Chapel Hill (retired)

*The Future of Jordan Lake*

Moderator: Loren Hintz, CFE Vice Chair

Questions and Answers

11:50 **Closing Remarks**

Barry Jacobs, Chair, Orange County Board of Commissioners

12:00 **Adjourn**

12:15pm Tour of Agricultural Education Center (optional / fee required)