

ORANGE COUNTY



Department of Environment,  
Agriculture, Parks & Recreation

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Commission for the Environment  
**From:** Rich Shaw and Malcolm Munkittrick  
**Date:** August 6, 2013  
**Subject:** State of the Environment 2014

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In June the CFE discussed a proposed timeframe for completing the 2014 edition of the Orange County State of the Environment (SOE) and met Malcolm Munkittrick, DEAPR's research associate (and UNC graduate student) who has a lead role in developing the report.

Malcolm presented his initial ideas for changes from the 2009 SOE report, including proposed improvements to the layout and graphics. He received feedback from the CFE on a list of potential new environmental indicators (e.g., solid waste data, agricultural assets) and the removal of some other, less meaningful indicators. Malcolm also identified some new emerging issues to include, such as "fracking" and plug-in electric vehicles.

CFE members provided additional ideas and requested that Malcolm prepare a draft 2014 SOE report outline by mid-July. A draft table of contents was sent out July 15 and since then Malcolm has worked to incorporate all of the comments received thus far. The result is an initial draft of the Orange County State of the Environment report.

The draft SOE report will be available for the CFE to review on line by Friday, August 9. You will be provided a link via email. Please note that this draft is nearly complete; however, clearly marked placeholders have been inserted into sections for which DEAPR staff members are still developing graphics and maps for presentation.

As members of the steering committee for this report, we ask that you read through the draft document and provide critical feedback on its format and content. We are especially interested in your input for the "*What is the Trend in Orange County?*" and "*How Can Orange County Improve?*" sections for each indicator. Text from the 2009 report that is largely unchanged is shown in italics so as to provide a base for updating, and so that we don't need to start again from scratch. Some of the environmental indicators don't provide any significant change to the trends that were apparent in the 2009 report; so much of the text can remain the same, whereas other indicators are new or may have a different trend. For those indicators we request CFE ideas (and text) on what the data means for the residents of Orange County. Additionally, please begin to identify what you believe are the key issues and recommendations of the report as whole, which will be summarized in the introductory pages.

Thank you for your assistance. We look forward to discussing this at your August 12 meeting.

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The following is a revised schedule for completing the project.

**Revised Schedule – State of the Environment 2013**

May 2013	DEAPR hires graduate Research Associate (M. Munkittrick)
May-June 2013	Munkittrick verifies data sources, investigates new potential data sources, discusses with staff and CFE members
June-July 2013	Munkittrick collects data, reports to staff & CFE committees. CFE comments on proposed new style/format and new/deleted environmental indicators and emerging issues
August 2013	Munkittrick and DEAPR Staff present initial draft SOE report to CFE. Identify needs for further input/text from CFE and outside entities.
Sept-October 2013	Staff completes the data entries for remaining indicators. CFE provides further input/text for each indicator. CFE identifies those indicators it would like to highlight in the report overview and executive summary.
November 2013	Staff creates revised draft (proposed final) SOE report. CFE reviews draft, makes final edits/changes. Staff incorporates changes into final report.
December 2013	Document is made “camera-ready.” SOE report prepared for on-line viewing. A limited number of reports are printed for libraries and other entities.
Jan/February 2014	CFE hosts Environmental Summit, SOE report presented