

ORANGE COUNTY



Department of Environment,  
Agriculture, Parks & Recreation

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Commission for the Environment  
**From:** Rich Shaw and Malcolm Munkittrick  
**Date:** June 4, 2013  
**Subject:** State of the Environment 2014

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In February the CFE reviewed the contents of the 2009 State of the Environment report and provided some initial feedback and thoughts for the 2014 edition.

We are pleased to report DEAPR has hired a Research Associate—Malcolm Munkittrick—to work on this project. Malcolm is a graduate student at UNC Chapel Hill, and will work with us full-time until late-August. He will collect the data, investigate potential new sources of data, and identify potential improvements to the form and content of the 2009 report.

Malcolm will share his findings with CFE members who will serve as a steering committee for the 2014 report. Some of his initial ideas for consideration are provided on Page 2 of this memo.

**Possible Schedule – State of the Environment 2014**

May 2013	Hire new graduate Research Associate (Malcolm M.)
May-June 2013	Research Associate begins process of verifying data sources, investigating new potential data sources, discussing with staff and CFE
June-July 2013	Research Associate collects data, reports to staff & CFE committees. CFE appoints committee to review form/style, make minor changes to format
August 2013	Staff/Research Associate and CFE committee reports to full CFE to discuss report format and substance to date. CFE approves format
Sept-October 2013	Staff creates draft State of the Environment 2014
November 2013	CFE reviews draft, makes changes. Staff incorporates changes into draft
December 2013	Staff creates final draft; shared with stakeholders and interested parties
February 2014	Final touches. Document is made “camera-ready.” SOE printed
March 2014	CFE hosts Environmental Summit, SOE presented

(See over)

The following are some initial thoughts for CFE consideration and feedback:

1. Water Resources
  - a. Potential new “emerging issue” Topic: **Fracking**
    - i. Introduce the citizens to the topic and identify the locations for potential drilling (which are all outside of Orange County)
    - ii. Explore reverberations of drilling in, say, Lee County on Orange County’s natural environment (e.g., water resources drawn from watershed for fracking process, use of Orange Co. roads for transportation needs, etc.)
  - b. Methods for augmenting stream ratings?
2. Land Resources
  - a. Update “emerging issue” topic: **Land Application of Biosolids**
    - i. New application sites
    - ii. Summarize latest research on health impacts
  - b. Potential new environmental indicator: **Agricultural Assets**
    - i. Voluntary Agricultural Districts
3. Air Resources
  - a. Potential new “emerging issue” or environmental indicator: Plug-in Electric Vehicles (PEVs)
    - i. The number of electric vehicles in the Triangle Region is expected to increase from 291 to 158,000 by 2030, which could have a significant effect on CO2 air emissions
    - ii. The 291 PEVs registered in the Triangle (Aug 2012) already account for 40% of the 719 PEVs registered in North Carolina, and the 288 existing public and private non-residential charging stations account for 54% of the 531 charging stations in the entire state
  - b. How is the County (and towns?) working to make use of the Green House Gas Emissions Inventory from 2005?
5. Include new section on Energy Resources?
4. Include new section on Solid Waste?
  - a. How close is the County to reaching its 61% reduction goal?
  - b. Potential effects on Orange County environment from transporting its waste to Durham County
6. General
  - a. Track progress in achieving SOE 2009 goals
  - b. Explicit connections between 2030 Comprehensive Plan and 2014 SOE
  - c. Emphasize citizen participation