

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

Members:

May Becker, Peter Cada, Loren Hintz, Donna Lee Jones, Cliff Leath, Judy Miller, David Neal, William Newby, Steven Niezgod, 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
- *Environment and Agricultural Center,*
306 Revere Road, 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



Orange County Environmental Summit

Agenda

9:30am Gathering and Refreshments

10:00 Welcome

Jan Sassaman, Chair, Commission for the Environment

10:05 Introductions & Recognition of Special Guests

Barry Jacobs, Chair, Orange County Board of Commissioners

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

Rich Shaw, Orange County DEAPR*

10:25 Keynote: _____

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

Introduction by **Jan Sassaman**

Questions and Answers



11:00 Additional Speakers:

Johnny Randall, NC Botanical Garden

Donald Francisco, UNC-Chapel Hill (retired)

Moderator— **Loren Hintz**, CFE** Vice-Chair

Questions and Answers

11:50 Closing Remarks

Alice Gordon, Orange County Board of Commissioners

12:00 Adjourn

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

* DEAPR = Dept. of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation

** CFE = Commission for the Environment