

Commission for the Environment

The primary purpose of the Commission for the Environment (CFE) is to advise the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on matters affecting the natural environment. This responsibility generally includes:

- 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. Two members of the Board of County Commissioners serve as liaisons to this committee. To apply go to: www.co.orange.nc.us/boards/apply.asp

Members:

Chris Adams, Lucy Adams, Floyd Bridgwater, Michelle Drostin, Alice Gordon (BOCC), Loren Hintz, William R. Kaiser, Michelle Kempinski, Mike Nelson (BOCC), Tom O'Dwyer, Renee Price, Johnny Randall, Kirk Ross, Dawn Santoianni, Gary Saunders, Bryn Smith

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 members having 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

- *Southern Human Services Center* (Conference Room A/B or D)
2501 Homestead Road, Chapel Hill
- *Link Government Services Center* (the large conference room)
200 S. Cameron Street, Hillsborough



Contact the ERCD office for more information: (919) 245-2590



Orange County's 2009 Environmental Summit



N.C. Botanical Garden's Education Center
September 12, 2009—10a.m. to Noon

State of the Environment 2009

The 2009 State of the Environment report provides information and recommendations intended to facilitate policy decisions that affect the 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 SOE Report 2009 used 19 environmental indicators to measure progress toward environmental goals in the topical areas of air quality, biological resources and water resources. Recommendations for each indicator were developed along with critical issues the County faces.

Critical Issues:

1. **Greenhouse Gas Emissions**—Orange County's 2008 Greenhouse Gas Inventory revealed that projected population growth and land use changes could increase GHG emissions by 53% by 2030.
2. **Loss of Biodiversity**—Protection efforts are not keeping pace with the loss of biological diversity associated with habitat loss and degradation due to new suburban, urban and transportation land uses.
3. **Lack of Information about Groundwater Resources**—While nearly 40 percent of Orange County residents rely on groundwater, little information is available concerning groundwater quantity or quality across the county.
4. **Impact of Drought on Water Quantity**—Water resources in the area can become threatened during periods of extended drought. The Orange-Alamance Water System is already dependent on purchasing water to meet their current customer demand.

Read the full report at http://www.co.orange.nc.us/ercd/2009_SOE_index.asp

 Refreshments will be provided. 

Orange County's 2009 Environmental Summit

Agenda

10:00 Welcome to the Gardens

Peter White, Director, NC Botanical Garden

10:05 Introductions & Recognition of Special Guests

Valerie Foushee, Chair, Orange County Commissioners

10:10 Presentation of the *State of the Environment 2009*

David Stancil, Director, Environment & Resource Conservation

10:25 Keynote Address: *Stormwater Sustainability in Orange County Watersheds*, Dr. Larry Band,

Director of UNC's Institute for the Environment & Voit Gilmore Distinguished Professor, Geography Department
Introduction by **Johnny Randall**, Co-Chair, CFE*

11:00 Panel Discussion: *Sustainable Quantity and Quality of Ground and Surface Water Resources*

▪ Moderator— **Michelle Kempinski**, Co-Chair CFE

Surface Water Issues

John Morris, Former Director, NC Division of Water Resources
Ed Holland, Planning Director, OWASA*

Groundwater Issues

Don Cox, Supervisor, Orange Soil & Water Board
Melinda Chapman, Groundwater Specialist, USGS*



11:45 Closing Remarks

Alice Gordon, County Commissioner & CFE Liaison

12:00 Adjourn

12:15 Optional Tour of the new Education Center. The N.C. Botanical Gardens is pursuing LEED-Platinum Certification for the Center.

* CFE = Commission for the Environment, OWASA = Orange Water and Sewer Authority, USGS = United States Geological Survey