

Baltimore County Commission on Environmental Quality (CEQ)
Speaker series on resilience to extreme storms and flooding (as of 3/16/2023)

The goals of this monthly series are to present information and stimulate discussion in support of increasing resiliency through climate change adaptation, focusing on the expected increase in extreme weather and water-related challenges in Balt County, their projected impacts both coastal and non-coastal, and the development of plans for resiliency to protect essential infrastructure and public health.

Baltimore County administration leaders and staff are invited (Dept Environmental Protection and Sustainability, Dept Public Works & Transportation, Office of Sustainability, Departments of Property Management, Planning, Health, Recreation and Parks), as are members of the Baltimore County Council, people from MD Dept of Environment and Dept of Natural Resources, and the MD General Assembly.

Schedule: at monthly meetings of CEQ, at 7 pm, on Webex

10/26/2022 Dr. Andy Miller spoke on non-coastal / inland flooding, "Is climate change causing more frequent intense rainfall and flooding? Some observations from a 22-year radar rainfall record." He is Professor of Geography & Environmental Systems at UMBC, and recent Chair of Chesapeake Bay Program Scientific & Technical Advisory Committee.

12/7/2022 Dr. David Ruppert spoke on " What Agriculture Resilience looks like in the face of extreme weather." He is a Soil Scientist, an Assistant Clinical Professor, and Coordinator of the Agricultural Nutrient Management Program, Dept of Environmental Science and Technology at U Maryland College Park.

1/25/2023 Chris Overcash spoke on "Coastal flooding in Baltimore County" including an overview of SLR/Storm surge/compound flooding for the area as well as an in-depth discussion of nature-based strategies that could be used here. He is Senior Engineer, Deputy Director of Coastal Resilience at EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc., and an Instructor in Environmental Health and Engineering at Johns Hopkins Whiting School of Engineering and Bloomberg School of Public Health.

2/22/2023 Radu Zamfirache presented a summary of the 2021 Hazen report titled "Climate Action Plan and Resilience Assessment", on extreme storms-related flooding of

Baltimore County-owned properties and infrastructure, and provided the context of the current stormwater infrastructure. The Hazen report and its appendices are on this page: <https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/executive/initiatives/sustainability/initiatives/>

He is senior Engineer and project manager at Balt County Dept of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT), and a career specialist on stormwater management.

3/22/2023 Bob Shedlock will speak on “Addressing Urban Flooding Using an Interjurisdictional Watershed Approach—The Work of the Baltimore Urban Waters Partnership Flood Team”.

He is Scientist Emeritus at the US Geological Survey, and Emeritus Director of the USGS MD-DE-DC Water Science Center.

A concise summary from the first of 2 major workshops by the Flood Team includes the disconnect between what the science tells us about urban flooding and the governing regulations: https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-09/baltimore-flood-report-9.27.21_508_1.pdf A second, more recent workshop focused on Maidens Choice watershed as an interjurisdictional watershed, governed under multiple political structures with different rules, administrative structures, and funding mechanisms.

4/26/2023 Jenn Aiosa will speak on Baltimore County projects on long-term resilience to climate change, especially to flooding (both inland and coastal), including green and grey infrastructure. She is Baltimore County Director of Government Affairs, was until recently the County's Chief Sustainability Officer, and prior to that was Executive Director of Blue Water Baltimore.

Related information:

- County may establish a climate change resilience authority: <https://www.wypr.org/wypr-news/2022-11-29/baltimore-county-leaders-to-consider-a-new-way-to-pay-for-cost-of-climate-change>

5/24/2023 TBD