

Easttown Township's New Environmental Advisory Council

The Easttown Board of Supervisors passed Ordinance 445-20 on December 07, 2020 to establish an Environmental Advisory Council (EAC).

Five members of the EAC were appointed in 2021 and began their work in February 2021. The EAC members have a variety of professional and volunteer experiences.



Cara Rash was elected chairperson. Cara holds an M.S. in Environmental Science from Johns Hopkins University. She taught Environmental Science and Sustainability at the University of Maryland while working for the Environmental Protection Agency in support of their wastewater, Superfund and Enforcement and Compliance programs. She currently teaches Environmental Science at Norwich University.

Vice Chair Gary Ellis has a background in community planning. As a community planner, he focused on many towns' environmental planning matters, mostly in the Westchester County, New York/Fairfield County, Connecticut area. He holds a master's degree in regional planning from Cornell University. Gary Ellis serves as EAC liaison to the Easttown Township Planning Commission.



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EAC Secretary, Radha Pyati, is Dean of the College of Sciences and Mathematics at West Chester University. She is a member of a team of scientists that writes a yearly report on the State of the Lower Johns River Basin (Florida). She earned her Ph.D. in Chemistry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

EAC member, Heather Hill, is pursuing her Master's degree at Villanova University in Sustainable Engineering. Through the years, she has led many green initiatives in the T/E School district. She has structured and implemented various programs that have been sustained by members of the community.



EAC member Kate Doms is an associate professor of biology at Ursinus College where she teaches freshwater and marine biology. Kate received her PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Connecticut. She is the secretary of the Darby Creek Valley Association. Kate Doms serves as EAC liaison to the Easttown Township Parks and Recreation Board.

The EAC is excited to begin their work and submitted a list of short-term and long-term goals to the Board of Supervisors for approval. The projects that the EAC hope to accomplish within the first year include placing a recycling bin in the Easttown Library Vestibule to receive plastic film (e.g. dry cleaning plastic) for recycling. The plastic is used to produce decking for outside decks. Another goal is to host a series of workshops to inform Easttown residents on environmental issues and gauge public interest in future EAC lead projects in the Township. Easttown residents or Tredyffrin Easttown School District students interested in being notified of volunteer opportunities associated with EAC events or activities should email Eugene Briggs, Township Manager, at ebriggs@easttown.org.



Golden ragwort, a plant native to Pennsylvania, in a rain garden in Easttown Township. How to plant a rain garden is a potential topic for an EAC workshop for the residents of Easttown Township.



Periwinkle and celandine poppy in a rain garden in Easttown Township. The poppy is native to western, PA; the periwinkle is from Europe.