

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

November 2014

MEETING: The next meeting of the Climate Protection Action Committee is scheduled for November 13 (tonight!), 6:00 pm, City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway, 2nd floor meeting room. The meeting is open to the public. The [agenda](#) will be posted on the Community Development Department website. The focus of the meeting this month will be updates on City climate protection projects and consideration of an urban heat island recommendation.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **Community Based Social Marketing Workshops** – November 17-20, Tufts University, Medford. Dr. Doug McKenzie-Mohr is presenting an introductory and an advanced workshop on community based social marketing to foster sustainable behavior. For more information and to register, [click here](#). Group rates are available.
- **Net Zero Task Force** – November 19, 6:00 pm, Sherman Fairchild Laboratory, Harvard University, 7 Divinity Avenue, Room G62. The task force is working on recommendations. [For more information, click here.](#)
- **Restoring Ecosystems to Reverse Global Warming** – November 21-23, Tufts University, Medford. A conference on soil carbon management presented by Biodiversity for a Livable Climate. For more information and to register, [click here](#). Fees apply.
- **Car-sharing Discussions** - The City of Cambridge is collecting feedback from Cambridge residents about carsharing services, such as Zipcar and Enterprise Carshare. Now that carsharing has become a part of the transportation landscape, the City is considering ways to formalize it in the zoning regulations and gather input from the community to create some recommendations for how to move forward. Please consider attending one of the following [neighborhood meetings](#) to discuss carsharing. October 22, 7:00 pm, East End House, 105 Spring Street; October 29, Tobin School, 197 Vassal Lane; November 12, 7:00 pm, North Cambridge Senior Center, 2050 Mass. Ave.; December 3, 6:30 pm, Spalding Board Room, Cambridge Hospital; January 22, 7:00 pm, location TBD. For more information, contact Stephanie Groll, sgroll@cambridgema.gov or 617-349-4673.
- **Bicycle Network Plan Open House** – December 4, 5:00 to 8:00 pm, Cambridge College, Room 152, 1000 Mass. Ave. The draft Bike Network Plan will be shared along with additional information about input made over the past couple of months. [For more information, click here.](#)
- **Friends of Alewife Reservation Walks** - Friends of Alewife Reservation is a stewarding and educational non-profit for the Alewife Reservation in northwest Cambridge and for the surrounding city natural resources of marshes and wetlands abutting Belmont and Arlington. Free wildlife and history educational tours, clean ups and conservation initiatives for the silver maple forest. "Virtual" Tour of the Reservation: [click here.](#)
- **Walk/Ride Day Corporate Challenge** – Annual workplace competition in which organizations throughout Cambridge and surrounding cities and towns compete one day each month from April through October to have staff check in their commute online and consider healthier and more environmentally friendly choices (transit, bicycle, walk, etc.) Data show significant green shifts among participants on Walk/Ride Days and

other days throughout the month. Promoted by Green Streets Initiative, a Cambridge-based grassroots group. [Register your company for the Challenge here.](#)

- **350.Org** - 350 Massachusetts is a volunteer-led, campaign-focused initiative connecting and organizing a strong grassroots coalition to address climate change and build a just and secure future beyond fossil fuels. Meetings are held every two weeks. All meetings are held at First Church Cambridge, 11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA and begin at 6PM for potluck and networking, with the general meeting and working groups at 7PM. More info at www.350MA.org.
- **Green Cambridge** - Green Cambridge is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization and a founding chapter of the Massachusetts Climate Action Network (MCAN). Green Cambridge works to create a more sustainable Cambridge, and to protect the environment for the health and safety of all. Green Cambridge meets monthly at the Eastern Bank community room in Harvard Square, usually on the first Thursday of every month at 6:30pm. All are welcome and invited to attend! For more information and a listing of community events, please visit: <http://www.greencambridge.org/>.

NEWS

- **Cambridge Urban Heat Island/Climate CoLab Contest** – The City of Cambridge has launched a contest on the MIT Climate CoLab platform to crowdsource ideas on how to mitigate the urban heat island effect. The City seeks innovative, realistic, actionable, and location-based strategies to mitigate the UHI effect. This is important for both climate change preparedness and energy use and may have benefits for other issues such as storm water management. Winning ideas will be presented to the Climate Protection Action Committee, the advisory group to the City Manager, and will be considered for the forthcoming climate change preparedness plan. Did we mention there is a \$10,000 Grand Prize? Climate CoLab is a project of the MIT Center for Collective Intelligence. To propose ideas and join the conversation, [visit the contest webpage](#).
- **Harvard Sustainability Plan** – Harvard University rolled out its Sustainability Plan, which is a roadmap for building and operating a healthier, more sustainable campus community. The plan is organized around five core topics: emissions and energy, campus operations, nature and ecosystems, health and well-being, and culture and learning. The plan incorporates Harvard's existing goal to reduce campus greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent below 2008 levels by 2016. It also sets new targets to reduce waste per capita by 50 percent by 2020 from a 2006 baseline, with a goal of becoming a zero waste campus; reducing water use by 30 percent by 2020 from a 2006 baseline; and maintaining at least 75 percent of the campus' landscaped area organically by 2020.
- **Metro Boston Regional Climate Preparedness** – Cambridge is joining with Boston, Somerville, and Chelsea to convene a regional summit to better prepare the metro Boston area for the impacts of climate change. City Manager Richard Rossi said "It is essential that communities in the Boston metropolitan area work together on climate change. ... Climate change is creating new stresses on our communities, and while we are individually doing a lot within our borders, what is missing is a regional strategy." It is expected that a half-day summit will be held next spring at UMass Boston to discuss establishing a mechanism for coordination of regional, cross-government action going forward. [[Cambridge press release, 10/29/14](#)]
- **Mass. Commercial Food Waste Ban Takes Effect** – The [state ban on commercial food waste](#) going to disposal facilities took effect on October 1. The regulation applies to any business or institution that sends one ton or more of food waste per week to landfills or incinerators. This covers supermarkets, wholesalers, restaurants, and large cafeterias. The state estimates that about 1,700 entities will need to comply with the requirement. It is expected that about 200,000 tons of waste will be diverted from disposal facilities every year. The affected entities can comply by reducing waste, composting on-site, using the food waste as animal feed, or sending it to off-site commercial composters or anaerobic digesters.

- **City Of Cambridge Slashes Trash** - According to the Cambridge Recycling Division of the DPW, in Fiscal Year 2014, trash was 18.1 pounds per household per week. In the baseline year of 2008, each household generated 22 pounds per week. That's a drop of almost 20% through better recycling, composting, reuse and recycling. [[Recycling Advisory Committee Minutes, 9/14](#)]
- **Boston Draft Climate Plan Update** – The City of Boston has released its [draft Climate Action Plan](#) for public comment, which builds on its 2011 plan. Comments can be submitted through Boston's [Greenovate site](#).
- **No Smog Days in Bay State in 2014** - 2014 was the first year since the Commonwealth started tracking ozone or smog levels in the 1970s that did not register a single air-quality exceedance between April and September. The Department of Environmental Protection measures ground level ozone levels at 18 sites across the state. There were 10 “bad air days” in 1011, 17 in 2012, and 6 in 2013. [[EcoRI News, 9/30/14](#)]
- **Bay State #8 in Solar PV Capacity** - With 66 watts per person, Massachusetts is ranked 8th among the states in installed solar PV capacity. Arizona is tops with 275 watts per capita. [[EcoBuilding Pulse, 9/4/14](#)]
- **Mass. #1 Energy Efficiency State Again** – The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy ranks Massachusetts as the top state for energy efficiency for the fourth year in a row. The ranking is based on policies and performance criteria. Governor Deval Patrick stated “We have treated efficiency as our first fuel because saving energy, managing costs, and reducing environmental impacts while building a stronger cleantech economy helps fulfill our responsibility to future generations to leave a stronger Commonwealth than we found.” [[ACEEE press release, 10/21/14](#)]

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **Jobs – Cambridge Community Sustainability Compact Coordinator** – This is a 15 hour/week position with the City to assist the Deputy City Manager in supporting the Sustainability Compact. ** Climate Central is seeking a [Sea Level Rise Program Director](#) and a [Software Engineer](#). These positions are based in Princeton, NJ.
- **State Adaptation Progress Ranked** – The Georgetown Climate Center has a [new tool to track state progress in preparing for climate change](#). Massachusetts is second in terms of completing the largest number of goals. Out of 373 goals, 24 have been completed and 191 are in progress.
- **Retrofitting Buildings for Floods** – The City of New York released a new guide titled [Retrofitting Buildings for Flood Risk](#).
- **Mass. ACP Credits & Thermal Technology** – The [Heatspring Institute explains how the Clean Heat Bill passed by the Legislature in July will impact the cost of renewable thermal technologies](#) such as solar hot water and ground source heat pumps. The new law sets up a new production-based incentive for renewable thermal technologies similar to SRECs for solar PV.
- **California Rooftop Reflectance Map** – A neat [interactive map](#) produced by Lawrence Berkeley National Lab shows the rooftop solar reflectance in 5 California cities. The tool is useful for planning cool roof strategies.
- **Phoenix Urban Cooling Study** – Arizona State University, working with the City of Phoenix, assessed the effect of urban forestry and cool roof strategies in mitigating the urban heat island effect. The [report of the Cool Urban Spaces Project](#) estimated the benefits of increasing the tree canopy from 10% to 25% and implementing cool roofs as a way to reduce night time temperatures.
- **Cambridge Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment** – The City is working on preparing a vulnerability assessment that will serve as the foundation for a climate change preparedness plan that will follow. The [project webpage](#) provides background information and documents from meetings. Interested people can send an email to jbolduc@cambridgema.gov to be placed on the project email list.

- **Cambridge Solar Map** – The [Cambridge Solar Tool](#) provides a web-based interactive tool to find out the potential for installing solar photovoltaic systems on rooftops in the city. The tool also evaluates the financial feasibility of installations and makes comparisons to alternative investments. The tool is designed by Mapdwell and based on the research of the [MIT Sustainable Design Lab](#) led by Dr. Christoph Reinhart. The City's [Cambridge Energy Alliance](#) program can assist interested property owners with finding installers and understanding the financial aspects. The Mapdwell tool was upgraded in September 2015 and can now be viewed in Spanish.
- **Opt Out of Unwanted Mail** - Do you get unwanted mail from retailers, credit card companies, or cable/phone companies? You can opt out of mailings from over 4000 companies with Catalog Choice and help reduce waste. For example, you can stop getting weekly circulars from Global Direct, they will honor opt-out requests, so add them to “your choices”. Just register for FREE at <https://cambridge.catalogchoice.org> to create an account to start cleaning out your mailbox. To date, over 3700 Cambridge residents have signed up and opted out of nearly 25,000 different unwanted mailings!
- **Check Out Watt Meters at the Library** – Cambridge residents can borrow a “kill-a-watt” meter from the Main Public Library to measure how much electricity their home appliances and devices use. The meters come with a guide on how to use them and information on how to save energy. The meter kits and guide were developed by the [Sprouts of Hope](#) group based at the King Open School.
- **MBTA Rider Tools** – The MBTA has a number of [rider tools](#) that help riders to anticipate arrival times of buses, subways, and commuter trains and to receive alerts of delays. These tools can be used on iPhones, Android phones, text messages, emails, and the Web. There is also a trip planning tool.
- **NSTAR Green** – Residential and small business electric customers of NSTAR can opt to purchase renewable electricity generated by wind energy farms. To sign up for the service, visit the [NSTAR website](#).
- **Cambridge Energy Alliance** – The [Cambridge Energy Alliance](#), a program of the City of Cambridge Community Development Department helps residents, businesses, and organizations to obtain energy efficiency and renewable energy services. You can sign up for energy audits and ask questions through the energy advisor service.
- **Sustainable Business Leader Program** - SBLP is a comprehensive certification program that supports local businesses in improving their environmental business practices and reducing their carbon footprint. For more information please visit the [SBLP website](#) or email to katrina@sbnboston.org.

About the CPAC Bulletin:

The Climate Protection Action Committee (CPAC) is a City of Cambridge advisory body appointed by the City Manager to assist in the implementation of the Cambridge Climate Protection Plan. Please forward this bulletin to other interested people. Anyone who would like to be added to the email distribution list should contact John Bolduc at jbolduc@cambridgema.gov or 617-349-4628. For more information about Cambridge climate protection activities, see <http://www.cambridgema.gov/climate>. Recent issues of the CPAC Bulletin are posted on the webpage.