

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

November 2017

MEETING: The Climate Protection Action Committee will meet in on November 9th, 6:00 pm at City Hall Annex, 2nd floor. The agenda focus is on progress reports for the climate protection goals and the Net Zero Action Plan. The agenda for the meeting will be posted on the [Community Development Department website](#).

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **Potential of Solar** – November 8, 5:00-6:00 pm, MIT, Room 66-110. Becca Jones-Albertus, acting deputy director of the US DOE Solar Energy Technologies Office will talk about how much more solar energy can be deployed. Space is limited. [To register, click here](#).
- **GreenBuild 2017** – November 7-10, 2017, Boston Convention Center. The international green building conference and expo of the U.S. Green Building Council will be held in Boston again next year. For more information and to register, [click here](#).
- **ASAP-ULI-BSA-UMB Networking** – November 9, 6:00-8:30 pm, at GreenBuild. The American Society of Adaptation Professionals with the Urban Land Institute/Boston, Boston Society of Architects, and UMass Sustainable Solutions Lab are holding a reception that will follow the day's events at the GreenBuild/ABX conference in Boston. It is not necessary to be registered for the conference to attend this networking event. It will be an opportunity meet other people working on climate change adaptation and resilience. Appetizers and dessert will be served and there will be a cash bar. To register, which will also give attendees access to the GreenBuild/ABX expo hall, [click here](#) and use the code AB17ALUMNI10. This event is free. If you have already registered for GreenBuild, email abx.registration@informa.com and let them know you would like to attend the ASAP event.
- **A Circular Economy** – November 9, 12:00-1:30 pm, MAPC, 60 Temple Place, 3rd Floor, Boston. A brown bag lunch presentation with Leonie Janssen-Jansen, Professor of Land Use Planning at Wageningen University and Andre Strucker, Strategic Adviser at Waternet. The speakers will discuss the Netherlands drive for a wholly circular economy by 2050, with a 50% reduction in minerals, fossil fuels, and metal by 2030. Attendees need to RSVP to eva-de.winkel@minbuza.nl or +1.646.557.2212.
- **Envision Alewife Working Group** – November 16, 6:00 pm, Russell Youth Center, 680 Huron Avenue. For more information, [click here](#).
- **TPL Let's Get Climate Smart**– November 16, 5:30 pm, Hyatt Regency Hotel, 575 Memorial Drive. The Trust for Public Land is hosting a panel discussion and reception for the release of the Metro Boston Climate Smart Cities Tool, which presents climate change and land use information to support green infrastructure deployment. Panelists include Bill Lindsay, City Manger, Richmond, CA; Holly Bostrom, TPL; Marc Draisen, Executive Director, MAPC; Axum Teferra, Climate Specialist, MAPC; and Alicia Hunt, Energy & Environment Director, City of Medford. The new tool covers the 14 cities and towns that participate in the Metro Mayors Climate Change Preparedness Commitment. [To RSVP, click here](#).
- **Climate Adaptation Forum** – November 17, 7:30 am – 12:00 noon, UMass Club, One Beacon Street, Boston. Discussion with former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and three panels on city and regional adaptation featuring south Florida, New York City, and Tidewater region of Virginia. Small registration fee applies. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

- **Climate Reckoning** – November 17-19, Harvard University. [Climate Reckoning: Paths to an Earth Restored](#) is organized by Biodiversity for a Livable Climate.
- **Senator Sheldon Whitehouse** – November 20, 4:00-6:00 pm, MIT Media Lab, 75 Amherst Street, 6th floor Multipurpose Room. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island will speak about “America’s Climate Future”. [For more information and to register, click here.](#)
- **Public Planting Committee** – November 21, 5:30 pm, Public Works Department, 147 Hampshire Street. The meeting will include a webinar presentation of the Cambridge Urban Forest Canopy Assessment Update conducted by the University of Vermont Spatial Analysis Lab. Jarlath O’Neil-Dunne, the lab director, will present the results. A webinar link will be available soon for remote participation.
- **CCPR Alewife Public Meeting** – November 30, 6:00 pm, Russell Youth Center, 680 Huron Avenue. The draft Climate Change Preparedness & Resilience Plan for the Alewife area will be reviewed and discussed through brief presentations and interactive stations.
- **Northeastern North America Climate Summit** – December 7 & 8, MIT. The New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers will convene a [regional climate change summit](#) hosted by MIT. Michael Bloomberg will be the keynote speaker.
- **MIT Sustainability Summit** – March 9, Four Seasons Hotel, 200 Boylston Street, Boston. The theme this year is “Good Jobs for a Thriving Economy: Inspiring Business from the Inside; Mobilizing from the Outside.” [To see the program and to register, click here.](#)
- **Eastern Climate Preparedness Conference** – April 30-May 2, 2018, Manchester, NH. The largest climate change adaptation conference in the eastern US is now open for registration. Program and registration details have been posted. The 2018 Local Solutions Conference is organized by Antioch University. The regional conference alternates every other year with the National Adaptation Forum. The City of Cambridge is a co-sponsor. [Program and registration information are available 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. It focuses on implementation of federal stormwater regulations, flooding and water quality in the Little River, and development improvement projects such as work at Blair Pond.
- **350MA.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. During the summer of 2017, meetings will be held at Harvard Epworth Church, 1555 Mass. Avenue in the sanctuary, 7:00-9:00 pm, on July 18 and August 1, 15, and 29 (no meeting on July 11). Note this meeting location is temporary while the usual meeting location at First Church undergoes some renovation work.
- **Green Cambridge** - [Green Cambridge](#) works to bring neighborhood resiliency to individuals and communities across Cambridge by empowering individuals to embrace renewable energy, practice urban agriculture, care for our urban tree canopy, and utilize sustainable transportation. Green Cambridge meets monthly at the Eastern Bank community room in Harvard Square, usually on the third Thursday of every month from 7:00-8:30pm. All are welcome and invited to attend! For more information and a listing of community events, including volunteer opportunities at our prototype urban farm, please visit: [greencambridge.org](#).

NEWS

- **City Council Goals** – The City Council provisionally adopted [new goals and guiding principles](#) at the October 16th meeting. Goal 3 is to “Deepen our commitment to sustainable use of energy and strengthen our capacity for resilience.”

- **Boston Coastal Resilience Study** – The City of Boston released a report on [Coastal Resilience Solutions](#) for East Boston and Charlestown as part of the Climate Ready Boston initiative. The study developed designs for barriers to protect East Boston and Charlestown from sea level rise and storm surges. The Charlestown barrier, which would be located at the Schrafft Building site would also reduce flood risk for parts of Somerville and Cambridge by blocking a major pathway for flooding from Boston Harbor to bypass the Charles River Dam. [[Boston Globe, 10/29/17](#)]
- **Metro Boston Climate Smart Cities Tool** – The Trust for Public Land has released a new climate planning tool for green infrastructure for the Metro Boston area. The [Climate Smart Cities tool](#) allows users to see data covering the 14 cities and towns that participate in the Metro Mayors Climate Change Preparedness Commitment, including Cambridge, and identify possible opportunities for green infrastructure. An event to celebrate the release of the tool will be held on November 16th at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Cambridge; see the events listings above for more information.
- **Atmospheric GHG at Historic Levels** – The [World Meteorological Organization](#) reports that atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations reached record levels at record speed. Globally averaged carbon dioxide concentrations reached 403.3 parts per million in 2016, up from 400.000 ppm the year before. Atmospheric CO₂ is now 145 percent higher than pre-industrial levels. Radiative forcing, which represents the warming effect on our climate, has increased 40 percent since 1990 and 2.5% since 2015. The 3.3 ppm increase in CO₂ between 2015 and 2016 was the largest annual increase on record. Part of the increase is attributed to the El Nino phenomenon.
- **Green Lease Leaders Sought** – The Institute for Market Transformation is accepting applications for its [Green Lease Leaders Program](#). The program recognizes landlords and tenants in commercial, industrial, and retail sectors for adopting best practices that “energy-align” property leases to achieve greater energy efficiency. The application deadline is March 1, 2018. In 2016, Boston Properties was recognized as a Green Lease Leader.

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **Job – Climate Ready Boston Coordinator**, deadline 11/17/17, grant funded position.
- **NYC Storm Surge Risks** – A [new study](#) titled *Impact of climate change on New York City's coastal flood hazard; Increasing flood heights from the preindustrial to 2300 CE*, that includes MIT's Kerry Emanuel as a co-author, assesses storm surge risks to New York City with sea level rise. [[Washington Post, 10/23/17](#)];
- **Local Climate Planning** – A [new study](#) looks at how city planning can contribute to climate change mitigation, finding that more can be done through residential housing than transportation. The study includes the metro Boston area as one of the areas that is assessed.
- **Fossil Fuel Free Streets** – Several cities that participate in the global C40 Cities initiative have signed onto a [fossil fuel free streets declaration](#). The cities commit to procuring only zero-emission buses from 2025 and ensuring a major area of their city is zero emissions by 2030. Seattle and Los Angeles are the US cities that have signed.
- **Energy Performance & Default Risk** – A [study from the DOE Lawrence Berkeley National Lab](#) finds a correlation between source energy use intensity and energy pricing risk with commercial mortgage default rates. Better energy performance is associated with lower default rates. The data used in the study includes energy benchmarking data collected through city energy benchmarking ordinances including Boston's Building Energy Reporting and Disclosure Ordinance.
- **GAO Climate Change Report** – The federal General Accounting Office issued a report titled [Climate Change: Information on Potential Economic Effects Could Help Guide Federal Efforts to Reduce Fiscal Exposure](#). [[New York Times, 10/23/17](#)]
- **EPA Water Score** – The US EPA has developed a new [Water Score](#) for multifamily residential buildings that uses a 1-100 scale similar to the Energy Star Score for buildings.

- **Johan Rockstrom** – The September 19th lecture given by Johan Rockstrom, of the Stockholm Resilience Centre and one of the developers of the planetary boundaries concept, at MIT is available on Youtube. The title of the lecture was [Earth Resilience Key for World Development in the Anthropocene](#).
- **Cambridge Recycling News** - Waste reduction fights climate change! [42% of US greenhouse gas](#) emissions are from materials management. Help us meet Cambridge's waste reduction goals and stay informed with the monthly [Cambridge recycling e-newsletter](#). Full of practical information, helpful tips, and fun events, this newsletter regularly receives compliments from the many Cambridge residents already subscribed! You can sign up quickly [here](#).
- **Cambridge Climate Change Preparedness & Resilience** – The City its climate change vulnerability assessment that is serving as the foundation for a climate change preparedness plan that is being developed. The CCVA Report – Part 1 covers the risks of increasing temperatures and precipitation and CCVA Report – Part 2 focuses on the risks of sea level rise and storm surges. Both reports are available on the [CCPR project webpage](#), which also provides other information and documents from meetings. The CCPR Plan development has started with a focus on the Alewife area. After a second neighborhood is studied, the full plan will be developed with a goal of completion in 2018. 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!
- **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.
- **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.

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.