

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

January 2014

MEETING: The next meeting of the Climate Protection Action Committee is scheduled for January 9, 6:00 pm, City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway. The meeting is open to the public. The [agenda](#) will be posted on the Community Development Department website. The featured topic this month is a discussion about eco-districts with a presentation by CDD staff.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **Boston Area Sustainability Group** – January 7, 6:00 to 9:00 pm, The Venture Café, One Broadway, 4th floor, Cambridge. *Topic:* Effecting Social Change at the Community Level. *Speakers:* Richard Pearl, State Street Corp.; Greg Hills, FSG; Becky Snow, Adidas Group. [Register here.](#)
- **Harvard Extension School** – A basic course on sustainability in local organizations will begin on January 27, 2014. The course is entitled “Strategies for Sustainability Management.” The course is taught by Bob Pojasek, a long time sustainability manager and consultant. It is a case method style course where the cases are based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Learn more about the course by reading the syllabus posted on the class website. [To register, click here.](#)
- **MIT Energy Conference** – February 21-22, Cambridge & Boston. [To register, click here.](#)
- **CERES Conference** – April 30 – May 1, 2014, Westin Waterfront Hotel, Boston. For more information, [click here.](#)
- **Local Solutions: Northeast Climate Change Preparedness** – May 19 to 21, 2014; Manchester, NH. A networking and training conference for public and private stakeholders. The third day of the conference is an educators summit. [Register here.](#)
- **Friends of Alewife Reservation Walks** - Wildlife walks sponsored by [FAR](#) impart the history and background to the DCR’s Alewife Reservation, a rare urban wild in Cambridge. The walks are led by a professional wildlife assessor, Dave Brown. Tours last 2 hours. To prepare for the tour, or to get a "Virtual Tour", [click here.](#)
- **Green Streets** – This initiative encourages people throughout Cambridge (and Somerville and surrounding cities and towns) to use a green form of transportation (transit, bicycle, walk, skate) on a designated day of the month and to wear a green-colored item of attire. The goal is to make Cambridge and neighboring cities safer, quieter, and friendlier for pedestrians and cyclists, and to minimize the use and impact of cars. Generally, the designated day is the last Friday of the month. Check the [Cambridge Green Streets Initiative website](#) for more info and incentives.
- **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

- **Net Zero Task Force Appointed** – City Manager Richard Rossi appointed the members of the [Getting To Net Zero Task Force](#) that is expected to begin its work in January. The members are: Mike Connolly (resident); Henrietta Davis (resident); Barun Singh (resident); Andrea Love (resident); Julie Newman (MIT), Heather Henriksen (Harvard); Tom Sieniewicz (Planning Board); Joseph Maguire (Alexandria Real Estate); Bill Kane (BioMed Realty); Caitriona Cooke (expert, housing energy efficiency); Paul Lyons (expert, solar energy); Marc Hoffman (expert, energy economist & policy expert); Jane Carbone (affordable housing energy expert); and Shawn Hesse (expert, architect).
- **Solar Tool Expands** – Mapdwell launched the Washington, DC version of its [Solar System tool](#) that enables users to assess rooftop solar photovoltaic potential based on a technical modeling method licensed from MIT. Mapdwell developed its first [solar mapping tool for Cambridge](#) in 2012. Smithsonian Magazine called Mapdwell's tool the "most accurate solar map in the United States." Mapdwell expects to launch a third tool for the town of Orleans, MA soon and is in discussions with other communities in the U.S. and abroad. [[The Atlantic Cities, 12/16/13](#)]
- **150 Second Street Earns LEED Platinum** – The three-story, 127,000 square feet laboratory and office building at 150 Second Street has earned a LEED Platinum rating under the U.S. Green Building Council's Core & Shell rating system. The project was developed by Skanska and recently sold to Alexandria Real Estate Equities. The building is especially notable for its features that reduce water consumption, including a rain garden and water reuse system. [[Boston Business Journal, 12/3/13](#)]

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **Job** – The Institute for Market Transformation and Natural Resources Defense Council are seeking a [Large-Building Energy Efficiency Program Manager](#) to work with the City of Boston on the implementation of the Building Energy Reporting and Disclosure Ordinance and the Renew Boston Strategic Plan for large commercial, industrial, and residential buildings.
- **New Neighborhood Statistical Profiles** – The Community Development Department released an updated [Neighborhood Statistical Profile](#) for all 13 of the city's neighborhoods. The profiles cover a range of each neighborhood's demographic statistics.
- **Climate Changed Heads to High School** – [Blog post by Sarah Hill](#) about climate change in the classroom at Cambridge Rindge & Latin School and Revere High School.
- **Echoing Green Climate Fellowship** – Echoing Green is seeking applications for its [2014 Climate Fellowship](#), which targets next-generation social entrepreneurs committed to working on innovations in mitigation and adaptation to climate change. The Fellowship offers a stipend of \$80,000 for individuals (\$90,000 for two-person partnerships) paid in four installments over two years; a health insurance stipend; a yearly professional development stipend; and other support. The application deadline is January 6.
- **Urban Planning & Health** – The MIT Center for Advanced Urbanism issued a [new report](#) on the state of public health and urbanism that questions some of the assumptions about health made in urban planning. The report focuses on eight large U.S. cities. [[The Atlantic Cities, 12/17/13](#)]
- **Renewable Energy Certificates** – The [Massachusetts Energy Consumers Alliance](#) has some useful explanations of how green power programs contribute (or not) to the development of renewable energy.

- **Hybrid Retrofits for Vans** – Boston-based [XL Hybrids](#) makes a hybrid retrofit kit available for Chevrolet Express and Ford E-series vans. The Commonwealth has begun to install these in state owned vans. The company claims a 20% reduction in urban fuel consumption.
- **2013 Top 25 Employers** – The Community Development Department has posted the list of the [top 25 largest employers in Cambridge in 2013](#).
- **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 Modern Development Studio 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.
- **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.