

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

February 2017

MEETING: The Climate Protection Action Committee will meet on February 9, 6:00 pm at City Hall Annex, 2nd floor. This meeting will focus on reviewing the status of the Cambridge Climate Protection Goals & Objectives. The agenda for the meeting will be posted on the [Community Development Department website](#).

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **BASG** – February 7, 6:00-8:30 pm, One Broadway, Venture Café. The Boston Area Sustainability Group will hold an “Invite to Ignite” event. BASG is seeking six action based organizations to present their work and how BASG attendees can get involved. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Envision Cambridge Alewife Meeting** – February 8, 6:00 pm, Tobin School Cafeteria, *Alewife Public Meeting*. [Envision Cambridge](#) is the citywide plan process.
- **Tufts Energy Conference** – February 11, Fletcher School at Tufts University, 160 Packard Avenue, Medford. An annual forum to discuss critical global energy issues organized by students. For more information and to register, [click here](#).
- **MIT Energy Conference** – March 3-4, Marriott Hotel, Cambridge. The theme of this year’s conference, organized by students, is “Balancing of Power: Enabling the Next Energy Paradigm.” For more information and to register, [click here](#).
- **BuildingEnergy 2017** – March 7-9, Seaport World Trade Center, Boston. [BuildingEnergy](#) is the annual New England conference of the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association.
- **MBTA Focus40 Public Meeting** – March 15, 5:00-8:00 pm, MIT Media Lab. This public meeting is part of the MBTA’s process to develop the Focus40 Plan which will layout a capital investment strategy to improve the public transit system. The MBTA has received over 3,000 ideas so far and will discuss these and next steps at the public meeting. For more information, see the [Focus40 website](#).
- **7th MA SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE** - March 17, Endicott College, Beverly. THEME: *Sustainability by Land & Sea: Advancing Sustainability in Communities and on Campuses*. TRACKS: Communities & Campuses, Energy Trends, Coastal & Climate Resilience, Career Exploration & Advancement, Citizens Engaged, and Campus Trends. Early bird discount 'til 2/17. For more information and to register, [click here](#).
- **March for Science** – April 22, Washington DC. Supporters of scientific research and evidence-based policies will demonstrate on Earth Day on the National Mall in Washington DC and at satellite events. For more information, [click here](#).
- **National Adaptation Forum** – May 9-11, 2017, St. Paul, Minnesota. For more information, [click here](#).
- **I2SL Annual Conference** – October 15-18, Boston Marriott Copley Place. The [annual conference of the International Institute for Sustainable Laboratories](#) will be held in Boston this year.
- **GreenBuild 2017** – November 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. Persons interested in serving on the host committee or conference subcommittees should [visit the USGBC Massachusetts Chapter website](#).

- **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. All meetings are held at First Church Cambridge, 11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA and begin at 6:30 PM. 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

- **Baker Administration Unveils New Solar PV Incentives** – The Baker Administration has proposed a new plan for solar energy incentives to support the goal of achieving the next 1600 megawatts of solar power. The new plan would halve the amount of support but would make the payment more predictable. The existing incentives will be continued until the new system is in place next year. The straw proposal is posted on the [MA DOER website](#). [[Commonwealth, 1/31/17](#)]
- **Eversource Proposes Solar Charge** – Eversource has proposed new special charges for customers with solar installations intended to cover their share of the cost of operating the power grid. The proposed charges are included in the utility's rate filing with the Department of Public Utilities. The rate filing calls for increasing the monthly customer charge for connecting the typical residential customers to the grid from \$6.87 to \$8.00. For customers with solar installations, the charge would rise to \$10.38 in eastern Massachusetts. [[Commonwealth, 2/2/17](#)]
- **Northeast Could Warm Faster** – According to new research by climate scientists at UMass Amherst, New England is likely to warm significantly more over the next decade than the rest of the planet. They project the region's temperatures will rise by an average of 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit above pre-industrial levels by 2025. New England would see this rise about two decades before the rest of world. They attribute this relatively faster pace to our region's relatively high latitude, our position relative to the prevailing winds from the west, and the dramatic rise in water temperatures in the Gulf of Maine which has warmed faster than any other body of water. [[Boston Globe, 1/13/17](#); [UMass News Release, 1/11/17](#)]
- **New Global Temperature Record Set Again** – As expected, the global temperature data showed that 2016 was the warmest year since modern recordkeeping began in 1880. 2016 broke the previous record set in 2015 which broke the record set in 2014. 2016 would have been the warmest year even when the effect of El Nino is taken into account. 16 of the 17 warmest years have occurred since 2001. The planet's average surface temperature has increased about 2.0 degrees Fahrenheit (1.1 degrees Celsius) since the late 19th century. [[Real Climate, 1/19/17](#); [NASA, 1/18/17](#)]
- **Trump Administration Abandoning US Climate Action Plan** – With the advent of the Trump Administration, the White House removed President Obama's webpages about climate change and installed an issues webpage setting forth [An America First Energy Plan](#). The White House pledges to eliminate the Climate Action Plan issued by the Obama Administration and embrace the shale oil and gas revolution, commit to clean coal technology, and revive the American coal industry. [[PRI, 1/20/17](#)]

- **Mass Energy EV Purchasing** – The Massachusetts Energy Consumers Alliance (Mass Energy), a non-profit organization, has set up the Drive Green program which offers group discounts for electric vehicle purchases. Mass Energy is offering the Nissan Leaf, Chevy Volt, Ford Fusion Energi, Ford C-Max Energi, and Kia Soul EV. It expects to offer the Chevy Bolt soon. Current deals and information about how to participate can be found on the [Mass Energy Drive Green website](#).
- **Mass #1 in LEED Per Capita** – According to the US Green Building Council, Massachusetts ranked number one in the nation in 2016 with 136 LEED-certified projects representing 3.73 gross square feet of certified space per resident. LEED is the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design green building rating system. According to the Green Building Economic Impact Study from 2015, LEED construction supported 155,000 jobs in Massachusetts and was projected to have a total impact on Gross Domestic Product of \$13.6 billion dollars from 2015-2018. [[USGBC blog, 1/25/17](#)]
- **Energy Efficiency Employs At Least 1.9 Million** – According to a [new report from E4TheFuture and Environmental Entrepreneurs](#), energy efficiency is supporting 1.9 million jobs in the US. The study counts workers who spent a fraction of their time on energy efficiency, which is the way the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates employment by industry. About 890,000 workers spend at least half their time on energy efficiency. The study counts workers who are employed in making and installing energy-efficient technology. It doesn't count the employment generated by energy savings. [[ACEEE, 1/10/17](#)]

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **Jobs** – The City of Boston is hiring a [Director of the Municipal Energy Unit](#) and a [Director of Climate & Environmental Planning](#). Boston is also seeking someone for a paid [Energy Efficiency and Climate Internship](#).
- **Leveraging Real Estate to Achieve Climate Goals** – Article from the Urban Land Institute titled [Leveraging Real Estate to Achieve Climate Goals](#) looking at the role of buildings and development in making positive progress on climate change.
- **Achieving Breakthrough Results in Corporate Sustainability** – A [report](#) from Bain & Co. on the challenges of making progress on sustainability goals in corporations. The report finds that corporate transformation initiatives only succeed in achieving 12 percent of their aims and for sustainability only 2 percent. The report suggests that to make breakthroughs there needs to be a public commitment and senior leadership support and action; change mindsets (i.e. sustainability is not only about corporate image); hardwire accountability and incentives into organizational processes; and strategize about accelerating change.
- **Social Cost of Carbon** – [Valuing Climate Damages](#) is a new report from the National Academies of Sciences recommending an update to how the social cost of carbon dioxide is estimated. [[Washington Post, 1/12/17](#)]
- **Urban Food Resilience** – The [Resilience of America's Urban Food Systems: Evidence from Five Cities](#) looks at the vulnerabilities of urban food systems and the role of food waste in resilience planning. The report is by the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City and supported by the Rockefeller Foundation.
- **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 Vulnerability Assessment** – The City is nearing completion of its climate change vulnerability assessment that will serve as the foundation for a climate change preparedness plan that will follow. The CCVA Report – Part 1 was issued in November 2015, which covers the risks of

increasing temperatures and precipitation. A second report will be issued on the risks of sea level rise and storm surges. 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!
- **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.