

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

September 2012

MEETING: The next meeting of the Climate Protection Action Committee is scheduled for September 13, 6:00 pm, City Hall Annex, 2nd floor meeting room. The [agenda](#) will be posted on the Community Development Department website. The featured topic this month is the public health implications of climate change with Sam Lipson, Environmental Health Director for the Cambridge Public Health Department.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **SBN Tour of Wind Tech Facility** – Thursday, September 13, 9:00 to 10:30 am. Tour of the Mass. Clean Energy Center's Wind Turbine Testing Center, the world's largest wind turbine blade testing facility in Charlestown. Space is limited. Sponsored by the [Sustainable Business Network](#). Fees apply. To register, click [here](#). For information, email katrina@sbnmass.org.
- **Harvard Thinks Green 2** – Tuesday, September 18, 7:00 pm, Sanders Theatre, Harvard University. Hear all-star Harvard faculty present their big green ideas in 10 minute talks. Features talks on climate science by James Anderson and Dan Schrag; public health and the environment by GSD professor Joyce Rosenthal; former Obama advisor and Kennedy School professor Joe Aldy; sustainable cities and innovation by business school professor Amy Edmondson; and artificial leaf inventor Daniel Nocera. The event will be preceded by an environmental trivia contest at the Queen's Head Pub starting at 5:30 pm (need to have a Harvard ID or be a guest of someone with such). For more information, click [here](#).
- **Screening of Switch** – Tuesday, September 18, 7:00 pm, AMC Boston Commons. Screening of the new energy documentary *Switch*. Produced by the [Switch Energy Project](#), which aims to build a balanced national understanding of energy. The screening is co-sponsored by the Sustainable Business Network and Massachusetts Climate Action Network. Tickets can be purchased [here](#).
- **Park(ing) Day** – Friday, September 21. An international event in which metered car parking spaces are converted into engaging park spaces for one day. Businesses, community organizations, and others can sponsor a spot and organize a space. See the news item below for more information.
- **New England Campus Sustainability Forum** – September 21, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Boston. Hosted by the New England Board of Higher Education, Second Nature, Clean Air Cool Planet and others. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Workplace Energy Behavior Workshop** – September 21, Noon to 4:30 pm, Federal Reserve Bank, Boston. Workshop on engaging employees on energy reduction. Sponsored by [A Better City](#). \$25 fee for non-members. For more info, contact Megan Ramey, mramey@abettercity.org.
- **You've Got (Solar) Potential** – Wednesday, October 3, 6:00 pm, Main Library Lecture Hall. This event will present talks and exhibits on solar energy installations and will feature the new Cambridge Solar Electric Map Tool developed for the City by MIT researchers and Modern Development Studio. The tool is an interactive map that estimates electricity production from rooftop solar photovoltaic systems and the economic and environmental calculations involved in an installation. More information to follow.
- **Massachusetts Green Career Conference** - Thursday, October 4, 2012, 8am to 4pm in Marlborough. The [4th Massachusetts Green Career Conference](#) connects stakeholders in government, business, education, non-profits, and individuals wanting to learn more about green careers. You'll find industry

updates, green career guidance, new employment research, best practices, and networking. 40+ presenters are leading experts. 20+ exhibitors include businesses accepting resumes and education/training resources. Previous conferences were sold out. Ticket fee (\$45-\$75) covers exhibitors, speakers, introductory career sessions, coaching, breakfast, lunch, and roundtable discussions. Register [here](#).

- **The Work that Reconnects** – Saturday, Oct. 6, 9:00 am-3:30 pm, at First Parish Church, 3 Church St., Cambridge (in Harvard Square). The goal of the workshop, which is based on the work of [Joanna Macy](#) and led by experienced facilitators, is to provide people with a chance to experience and share their deepest feelings in the face of climate change and other catastrophic threats; experience the positive power of those feelings; and renew a commitment to the work of remaking our world into one that is life-sustaining. It provides tools to nurture us in our work. For more information or to register, contact Rosalie Anders: Rosalie.h.anders@gmail.com or 617-868-6058. No fee, but space is limited, so please sign up ahead.
- **Global CleanTech Meet Up** – October 15 to 18, Boston & Cambridge; Boston Convention Center. Opportunity for innovators, investors, and companies to meet and form partnerships. The event includes a tour of innovative companies in Cambridge and Boston who are creating the clean energy economy. Sponsored by Mass. Clean Energy Center, New England Clean Energy Council, Mass. Technology Transfer Center, and Fraunhofer USA. Registration fees apply. For more information, click [here](#).
- **AltWheels Fleet Day** – Monday, October 22, Four Points by Sheraton, Norwood. This annual [event](#) aimed at vehicle fleet managers is organized by AltWheels and the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources. Details to be forthcoming.
- **SoL's Leading and Learning for Sustainability Workshop** – November 7 to 9, 2012, Bedford, MA; with Peter Senge, Joe Laur (SEED), and Darcy Winslow (Nike Foundation and Former Head of Women's Performance Division). The Leading and Learning for Sustainability workshop is a synthesis of core organizational learning disciplines—systems thinking, mental models and collaborative inquiry, personal mastery and building shared vision—and the practical know-how developed within the SoL Sustainability Consortium over the past decade, much of which is captured in the book, [The Necessary Revolution](#). This workshop will focus on how these core learning disciplines can build capabilities for Sustainability Leadership—seeing systems, collaborating across boundaries with ease, and shifting from reactive problem solving to creating new futures. For more information, please [click here](#) or contact Lisa Kim at programs@solonline.org or 617-300-9560. Fees apply.
- **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.

NEWS

- **Cambridge Urban Forest Canopy** – According to the University of Vermont Spatial Analysis Lab, 30 percent of Cambridge land is covered by tree canopy. The assessment used LIDAR data to map the edges of trees in a top-down view of the city and overlaid the canopy with geographic information to analyze how the canopy is distributed. This information is useful in planning measures to reduce the urban heat island effect, reduce energy use in buildings, manage stormwater runoff, and in other ways. The report estimates that 35 percent of the city's land area could support new trees, although that is a maximum amount that does not account for practical considerations such as existing uses (e.g., playing

fields). The assessment also finds that most of the tree canopy is located on residential property. To read the report, click [here](#). A map of the citywide tree canopy will be posted shortly.

- **Schools Sustainability Report** – The Cambridge School Department has issued its [first annual sustainability report](#). The report for fiscal year 2012 describes the department's initiatives in energy, waste, food, materials, green space, and various engagement efforts. The School Department established its [Office of Sustainability](#) in 2011 when it appointed Kristen Von Hoffmann as its first sustainability manager.

- **Parking Day** - PARK(ing) Day is Friday, September 21, 2012. The Cambridge Community Development Department (CDD) seeks creative folks to participate in the official City of Cambridge **PARK(ing) Day** celebration, an international event in which metered parking spaces are transformed into engaging "parks" for one day of the year. Have a great idea for transforming a parking space into a park? Let us know about it! Previous years have focused on many different themes including, but not limited to: Shakespeare in the park, lemonade stands, book swaps, hula hoop lessons, chalk drawings, and music.

PARK(ing) Day is an annual open-source global event where citizens, artists and activists collaborate to temporarily transform metered parking spaces into "PARK(ing)" spaces: temporary public places. The mission of PARK(ing) Day is to call attention to the need for more urban open space, to generate critical debate around how public space is created and allocated, and to improve the quality of urban human habitat ... at least until the meter runs out.

A sponsor is: A community group, organization, City department, or other business that "sponsors" a metered parking spot and is responsible for creating a small park in that space. Please check out our website and [fill out the form](#) and email it back to Jennifer Lawrence (jlawrence@cambridgema.gov) no later than September 11, 2012 if you would like to be included in the City of Cambridge PARK(ing) Day celebration.

- **Cambridge & Boston Featured in WBUR Climate Series** – A [three part series aired on WBUR](#) in August focused on how cities are beginning to deal with the impacts of climate change. The stories featured efforts in Cambridge and Boston to address increased temperatures, sea level rise, more intense storms, and other effects.

- **Court Decides on Solar Installers** – The Massachusetts Superior Court ruled in favor of a group of general contractors to allow them to advertise and contract for solar photovoltaic installations. A 2009 memorandum from the State Board of Electrical Examiners stated that only companies controlled by master electricians were allowed to do so. This policy guided municipal inspectors on solar PV permitting. The policy effectively blocked many installers who are general contractors that employ or subcontract licensed electricians to perform the installations. The [Emmett Environmental Law and Policy Clinic](#) at the Harvard Law Clinic represented the plaintiffs. The decision was not appealed.

- **Clean Energy Job Growth** – According to the [Massachusetts Clean Energy Center's 2012 survey](#), there were 71,523 employees working in the clean energy sector in the Commonwealth. This is an increase of 11.2% from 2011. This rate of growth outpaced the overall economy by a factor of ten. Clean energy accounts for 1.7% of the total Massachusetts workforce.

- **US Energy-Related GHG Emissions Decline** – According to the [U.S. Energy Information Administration](#), carbon dioxide emissions from energy use in the U.S. fell in 2011 during a period of economic growth. This decline was driven in part by a decrease in the carbon intensity of electricity generation, which was due to the replacement of coal-fired generation by natural gas. However, others note that while coal consumption in the U.S. has declined, coal production has held steady as the U.S. exports more coal, primarily to Asia. Therefore, the drop in U.S. carbon emissions from the energy supply does not result in a reduction of the greenhouse gas build up in the atmosphere. [[New Scientist, 8/20/12](#)]

- **New England Aquarium Wins NSF Climate Education Grant** – The National Science Foundation awarded [a \\$5.5 million grant for climate change education](#) at aquariums and zoos to a consortium led by the New England Aquarium. The grant will be used to research communication strategies that more

effectively explain the complex process of climate change and to train educational staff at informal science education institutions on those techniques. In a given year, more than 60% of Americans visit informal science venues such as zoos and aquariums.

- **New CAFÉ Standards** – The Obama Administration finalized [new standards for automobile fuel economy](#). By 2025, new cars and light-duty trucks must meet a standard of 54.5 miles per gallon. This will nearly double current fuel economy standards. Last year, a group of automakers that account for 90 percent of vehicles sold in the U.S. announced their support for the new standards. The new standards will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle fuel costs paid by consumers.

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **Solar Hot Water Grants** – The [City’s Cambridge Energy Alliance program is offering grants for the installation of solar hot water systems](#). The City grants complement the [state solar hot water rebates available from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center](#) and government tax incentives. The City grant covers 50% of out of pocket costs up to \$2,000 after the MassCEC rebate is applied. Applications must be received by November 19, 2012.
- **What Does Climate Resilience Look Like** – The Center for Clean Air Policy is running a [series of blogs to illustrate what climate adaptation and resilience measures look like on the ground](#).
- **Georgetown Climate Center** – The [Georgetown Climate Center](#) provides resources on climate change law. Recently the center issued a tool kit to help local governments adapt to increasing temperatures.
- **StartUp Resources** – The Community Development Department has a [webpage to help startup companies](#). It includes a commercial space finder and a list of Cambridge firms in life sciences, high tech, and green tech.
- **Green Pro Bono** – [Green Pro Bono](#) is an organization matches non-profits and social entrepreneurs trying to have an impact on climate change with pro bono legal services.
- **EPA Urban Heat Island Webinars** – The EPA archives its webinar files from its urban heat island series [here](#).
- **Reduce Junk Mail** - Easiest way to save resources? Say no to junk mail! Each year American households receive a total of 104.7 billion pieces of junk mail or 848 pieces of junk mail per household, requiring 6.5 million tons of paper. Unwanted mail isn’t just a nuisance it’s also a source of tremendous waste as trees, water and other resources used during production and printing are wasted along with the fuel during the delivery and recycling process. Help save paper, water and fuel resources by stopping the waste at its source - tell these companies to stop sending you things you don't want. Anyone can sign up and create a free account at [catelogchoice.org](#) and start opting-out of unwanted catalogs, junk mail, phone books, and credit card offers today. For more information, contact the [Product Stewardship Institute](#).
- **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.
 - **MCAN Low Carbon Living Program** – The [Massachusetts Climate Action Network](#) works with its local member organizations to develop teams of 5 to 8 households to assess their household carbon footprints and undertake actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The program is based on the Low Carbon Diet workbook and involves 3 to 4 meetings.
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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.