

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

January 2013

MEETING: The next meeting of the Climate Protection Action Committee is scheduled for January 10, 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 Cambridge hazard mitigation plan being prepared by the MAPC and climate change adaptation and resilience.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **Greeport Forum** - January 15 at 7pm. *Can New England Feed Itself?* Presented by Hannah Ramer, researcher for New England Food System Vision. New England presents a tremendous opportunity to create a healthy, resilient, sustainable food system. By growing more food locally we can improve our health, bolster our economy, protect our environment, and empower our citizens. However, scaling up local and regional agriculture is a great challenge to achieve. How much quality cropland and pasture land is potentially available? How do we connect all our citizens with good, healthy food? Our vision explores connections between production and consumption; farming, fishing, and eating. Join us to discuss these critical issues. Cambridgeport Baptist Church, 459 Putnam Ave (corner of Magazine and Putnam).
- **Green Revolving Funds Webinar** – January 17, 1:00 to 2:15 pm EST. *Green Revolving Funds: Recent Trends and Notes from the Field*; presentation on green revolving funds used by academic and other nonprofit institutions including examination of the key findings and trends from the second annual [Greening the Bottom Line](#) report based on data from active green revolving funds. To register, [click here](#).
- **Microgrids Workshop** – February 12, Federal Reserve Bank, 600 Atlantic Avenue, New England Room, Boston. Sponsored by Pace Energy & Climate Center, MassCEC, & U.S. DOE. To register, contact Tim Banach, tbanach2@law.pace.edu.
- **BuildingEnergy 13** – March 5-7, Seaport World Trade Center, Boston. Sponsored by NESEA. This is the leading regional conference on sustainable buildings and clean energy in the Northeast. For more information, [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.

NEWS

- **Sustainability Compact** – At its meeting on December 17, the City Council adopted a [policy order](#) asking the City Manager and the Mayor to work with Harvard and MIT to develop the “Cambridge Compact for a Sustainable Future”. The goal of the compact would be to accomplish more on energy efficiency, renewable energy, waste management, and transportation by working together.
- **Climate Change Projections for Cities** – Researchers at the [University of Tennessee at Knoxville](#) [published a study](#) that downscales climate change projections to the local level and modeled what could be expected to happen in the 20 largest cities east of the Mississippi River, including Boston, by the late 2050s. Regarding heat waves, the average heat wave in Boston is projected to increase by 3.41 degrees Celsius (about 6 degrees Fahrenheit), last nearly two days longer, and occur at least 5 times more frequently every year. On precipitation, Boston is projected to receive 207 more millimeters (another 8 inches) per year and see 2.5 more extreme precipitation events per year. [[Atlantic Cities, 12/19/12](#)]

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **Hurricane Sandy Webinar** – Archived webinar by the Union of Concerned Scientists on [Hurricane Sandy: Confronting the Realities of Climate Change](#).
- **Climate Access** – Good resource for climate communications practitioners; [click here](#).
- **FloodTools** – [New interactive flood tools](#) from the National Flood Insurance Program. Provides a quick assessment of a property’s flood risk, maps of historic flooding and past hurricane tracks.
- **2012 EPA Climate Change Indicators** – The EPA has issued the [2012 report on Climate Change Indicators in the United States](#). The report provides data on 26 mostly U.S. based indicators used to track climate change.
- **California Adaptation Planning Guide** – California has produced a [four part guide on local and regional climate change adaptation planning](#).
- **Chicago Bicycle Plan** – The [City of Chicago Bike 2015 Plan](#) sets ambitious goals. By 2020, it aims to install 645 miles of bike lanes to add to its current 30 miles. [[Grist, 12/14/12](#)]
- **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.
 - **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.