

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

March 2013

MEETING: The next meeting of the Climate Protection Action Committee is scheduled for March 14, 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 transportation demand management, parking policy, and electric vehicles.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **Local Environmental Action Conference** – March 10, 9:30 am to 5:00 pm, Curry Student Center, Northeastern University. Sponsored by the Massachusetts Climate Action Network and the Toxics Action Center. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Bike Parking Zoning Hearing** – March 19, 7:20 pm, City Hall Annex, 2nd floor meeting room. The Planning Board will hold a public hearing on proposed zoning amendments to the Zoning Ordinance concerning the appropriate standards for the design and quantities of bicycle parking spaces in the city. For more information, [click here](#). The City Council Ordinance Committee public hearing on the proposed amendment is scheduled for April 3, 4:30 pm, City Hall.
- **SPI State of the State Roundtable** – March 13, Noon to 1:30 pm, Sustainable Performance Institute Roundtable on the “State of the State” on sustainability. At the Boston Society of Architects, 290 Congress Street, Boston. To register for the free event, [click here](#).
- **Greenport Forum** – March 19, 7:00 pm, Cambridgeport Baptist Church, 459 Putnam Avenue. ***After Shock, A New Role For Local Climate Activists.*** How many shocks have there been? Katrina, summer heat, loss of Arctic sea ice, drought, rising seas, melting permafrost, methane plumes, Sandy, and more. Yet American public opinion about climate change and climate policy has changed little. Climate activist John Pitkin will lead a discussion about our current situation and a proposed new role for grassroots activists that can move thousands of people in Cambridge alone to act in new ways to reduce and prepare for climate change. Based on his essay [After Shock, A Strategy for Climate Activists](#).
- **Climate Change & Insurance: What’s Ahead** – March 20, 10:30 am to Noon, EPA Region 1, Court Room 6, 15th floor, 5 Post Office Square, Boston. Panelists: Cynthia McHale, CERES; Jay Burns, The Hartford; Paul Bianco, Traveler’s Institute; and Glen Daraskevich, Karen Clark & Co. (catastrophe modeling). There is a webinar option; [connect here](#). For more information, contact Shutsu Wong, wong.shutsu@epa.gov.
- **Landscaping with Climate in Mind** – April 3, Public Library, 7:00 pm, Sue Reed, Author of *Energy-Wise Landscape Design*. Learn how to manage your landscape to save energy and reduce your carbon footprint—essential actions in this era of climate change. Sponsored by [Grow Native Massachusetts](#).
- **Massachusetts Sustainable Communities/Sustainable Campuses Conference** - Sustainability: Practices & Possibilities; April 24, Worcester DCU Center. This conference connects stakeholders from government, education, business, and nonprofit to engage in cross-sector dialogues, learn about best practices and current trends, and go home with knowledge and resources to improve community and campus sustainability. The conference includes 75 presenters and 45 exhibitors who are leading experts, poster session for faculty and students, and informal lunch roundtable discussions. Registration fees apply. For information and registration, [click here](#).

- **BOMA Boston Green Real Estate Summit** – April 4, 7:30 am to 1:30 pm, Federal Reserve Plaza, 600 Atlantic Avenue, Boston. A conference dedicated to promoting environmental friendly practices in commercial real estate. Specifically, the Green Summit will focus on the operations and maintenance of existing buildings. Over 120 BOMA Industry Professionals and affiliates will attend to network, learn best practices and get up to date information on the latest trends in sustainability initiatives. For more information and to register, [click here](#). Registration fees apply.
- **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

- **GAO Report on Federal Government Climate Risks** – The federal Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommended to Congress that climate change be added to the list of high risk areas relative to effective government and fiscal stability. The GAO reported: “*Limiting the Federal Government's Fiscal Exposure by Better Managing Climate Change Risks*. Climate change creates significant financial risks for the federal government, which owns extensive infrastructure, such as defense installations; insures property through the National Flood Insurance Program; and provides emergency aid in response to natural disasters. The federal government is not well positioned to address the fiscal exposure presented by climate change, and needs a government wide strategic approach with strong leadership to manage related risks.” To see the report, [click here](#).
- **EnergySage Marketplace** – Cambridge-based EnergySage has launched its [Solar PV Marketplace](#), which provides a free-to-the-consumer online platform to help research and shop for solar photovoltaic systems and installations. The Solar PV Marketplace allows users to solicit online bids from multiple pre-screened installation providers and make apples to apples comparisons. The site also contains robust educational content, case studies with pictures and financial details, and installer and product profiles with ratings and reviews. The development of the platform was funded in part by the U.S. Department of Energy's Sunshot Initiative.

- **McCarthy & Moniz to Head EPA and DOE** – [President Obama nominated two people with strong Massachusetts connections to the posts of EPA Administrator and Energy Secretary](#). Gina McCarthy, who currently serves as the EPA Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation, is nominated to take over for Lisa Jackson as head of the EPA. She was formerly the Commissioner of Environmental Protection for Connecticut and was Under Secretary for Policy in the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs for Massachusetts and Deputy Secretary of the Executive Office of Commonwealth Development. While with EOE, she was a key figure in the development of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Dr. Ernest Moniz, a former DOE Undersecretary during the Clinton Administration, is nominated to take over for Steven Chu as Energy Secretary. He has been directing the MIT Energy Initiative since its conception.
- **MIT Climate CoLab Contests** – The MIT Climate CoLab, a project of the Center for Collective Intelligence, is running a series of contests to solicit proposals on what to do about climate change. The contests include “Transportation Efficiency”, “Shifting Cultures for a Changing Climate”, “Adaptation and Civil Society Groups”, “Local Solutions”, and “Urban adaptation: Climate resilient cities”, among others. For more information and to see proposals submitted to date, see the [Climate CoLab website](#). Winners will qualify for a cash award and also conference presentation spots.

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **Job** – [Outreach Coordinator](#), Climate and Energy Program, Union of Concerned Scientists, temporary two-year position in Cambridge or Washington, DC.
- **SLR Op-Ed** – The Boston Globe ran an op-ed titled [The Coming Storm: Rising sea levels are forcing tough decisions about where and how to build near water](#). The op-ed was co-authored by climate scientists Richard Murray of Boston University and Daniel Schrag of Harvard University. Professor Schrag serves on the City of Cambridge’s Expert Advisory Panel for the climate change vulnerability assessment.
- **MIT Climate CoLab** – The [MIT Climate CoLab](#) is seeking students and others to assist in evaluating plans for addressing climate change. The positions pay \$15-\$20/hour. For interested people, there may also be options to take part in other activities in the CoLab. If interested, email ynagar@mit.edu, and put CoLab Studies in the subject.
- **Post-Sandy Planning & Design** – The video of a forum on “Post Superstorm: Planning & Design After Sandy” is [posted here](#). The forum was held at the Harvard Graduate School of Design on February 21.
- **Harvey Leonard on Climate Extremes** – A video of WCVB/Channel 7 meteorologist Harvey Leonard talking about the link between more extreme snow storms and climate change is [posted here](#).
- **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 jboulduc@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.
- **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.

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.