

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

April 2013

MEETING: The next meeting of the Climate Protection Action Committee is scheduled for April 11, 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 a discussion with local green groups about the Cambridge Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **Urban Cycling Workshops** – The City and MassBike are offering free [Urban Cycling Workshops](#), providing how-to information class on biking in Cambridge. Upcoming sessions include Urban Cycling 101 (April 22, Morse School); Women-Powered Cycling (May 16, Tobin School); and Bike Maintenance 201 (July 15, City Hall Annex). All workshops are held 7:00 to 8:00 pm. To sign up, contact Jennifer Lawrence at jlawrence@cambridgema.gov or call 617-349-4671.
- **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](#).
- **Cambridge Science Festival** – The [2013 Cambridge Science Festival](#) runs April 12 to 21. Events and exhibits cover science in a fun and engaging way including energy, climate change, and sustainability.
- **MIT Sustainability Summit** – April 27 to 28; MIT Media Lab (E14), 75 Amherst Street. The 2013 summit features John Sterman, Director, MIT System Dynamics Group; Rick Ridgeway, Vice President for Environmental Affairs, Patagonia; Katherine Gajewski, Director of Sustainability, City of Philadelphia; and acclaimed environmental photographer James Balog who was featured in the 2012 documentary *Chasing Ice*, as well as workshop sessions. For more information and to register, [click here](#).
- **Boston Area Sustainability Group** – May 7, 6:00 to 9:00 pm, The Venture Café – Cambridge Innovation Center, One Broadway. Topic: *Building a Bridge (or Tunnel) to Link Sustainability and Quality*. For more information and to register, [click 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

- **Hubway Reopens** – The Hubway bike sharing system officially re-launched for the 2013 season on April 8. The network of stations is expanding. For more information about the City's role, [click here](#). To see your options to use the system, visit the [Hubway website](#).
- **MIT Zoning Petition Approved with Sustainability Requirements** – The Cambridge City Council voted on April 8 to approve the MIT zoning petition to allow expanded development in Kendall Square. The change will enable almost one million square feet of commercial space, about 800,000 square feet for academic uses, and about 240,000 square feet for up to 300 residential units. The approved petition also includes several new sustainability requirements including raising the green building standard to LEED Gold for the affected area (LEED Silver certifiability is the standard for the rest of the city), requiring energy use of the new buildings to be reported to the city, installation of cool roofs, and assessment of the feasibility of using the existing district steam system in the area. These requirements were recommended by the [Kendall Square/Central Square Study](#). Other requirements address transportation and sustainable urban design. [[Boston Globe, 4/8/13](#)]
- **Climate Change Preparedness Outreach** – As part of the City's climate change vulnerability assessment, City staff are fanning out to make presentations to introduce the project to community organizations and businesses, solicit feedback and input to the project, and encourage participation at later stages including the development of a climate change preparedness plan. The City is conducting the assessment to better understand the implications of climate change in Cambridge and develop a technical foundation for a plan that will guide physical and social actions to protect the city from anticipated effects such as hotter temperatures and heat waves, increased flooding, and more intense storms and make Cambridge more resilient. If you are part of an organization that would like to schedule a presentation, please contact Jennifer Lawrence at jlawrence@cambridgema.gov or 617-349-4671. For more information about the project, visit the [project webpage](#).

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **New York City 90 by 50** – The Urban Green Council, New York City's US Green Building Council chapter, issued a report on how the city could reduce its carbon footprint by 90% by 2050. [Click here for the report](#).
- **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 jbalduc@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.