

# Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

## CPAC BULLETIN

### June 2013

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**MEETING:** The next meeting of the Climate Protection Action Committee is scheduled for Thursday, June 13, 6:00 pm, City Hall Annex, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room. The [agenda](#) will be posted on the Community Development Department website. The featured topic this month is climate protection goals and objectives with Bronwyn Cooke of the Community Development Department as the speaker.

#### EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **Kids vs. Global Warming** – June 13, 3:30 to 4:30 pm, Department of Environmental Protection, One Winter Street, Boston. DEP will hold a public hearing on a citizens petition filed by *Kids vs. Global Warming*, an organization of students attending Boston public schools and Boston College Law School. The petition is formally titled "Petition For Promulgation of a Rule to Strictly Limit and Regulate Greenhouse Gas Emissions and to Establish an Effective Annual Emissions Reduction Strategy That Will Achieve Massachusetts' Statutory Obligation." To read the petition, [click here](#).
- **Solar 101 in Cambridgeport** – June 18, 7:00 pm, Congregation Eitz Chayim, 136 Magazine St. The Home Energy Efficiency Team (HEET) will talk about their solar initiative that will get participants a 20% discount on solar photovoltaic (electric) panels. It's a limited time offer, ending August 1. The program involves a free assessment. Participants who go through with an installation will also have a \$300 donation made to the non-profit of their choice. HEET's [Cambridge Solar Challenge](#) is aiming for 100 new solar installations in Cambridge. The initiative is supported by the City.
- **New England Energy Efficiency Conference & Expo** – Thursday, June 20, Intercontinental Hotel, Boston. Sponsored by NSTAR and National Grid. For the agenda and registration info, [click here](#).
- **NEEP Summit** – June 18-19, Springfield Sheraton Hotel. The annual conference is sponsored by the Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership. For the agenda and registration info, [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](http://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

- **Cambridge is Bicycle Paradise** – Cambridge was named a [Gold Bicycle Friendly Community](#) by the League of American Bicyclists. The League evaluates communities with criteria that benchmarks a city's progress toward improving its bicycle friendliness. The criteria cover investment in bicycle promotion, education programs, infrastructure, and pro-bicycling policies. Cambridge is the highest rated city on the East Coast and only one of two communities with a Gold rating east of the Mississippi River. There are 259 Bicycle Friendly Communities in 47 states. And to provide further evidence, [Bike Score](#) gives Cambridge a rating of 92 (out of 100) for bikable cities, putting the city into the “biker's paradise” category. Cambridge ranked at the top of 100 cities, including places such as Portland, OR (70); Boston (68); Davis, CA (89); and Boulder, CO (86).
- **Business Action on Climate Change** – The [Climate Liaison Action Coalition \(CALC\)](#) is a “coalition of companies who recognize that climate change is both a major threat to financial well-being and an opportunity to build a new economy based on restoring our environment and securing our future.” CALC was founded by Susan Labandibar, President of Tech Networks of Boston, an IT services provider with 41 employees, to provide business owners with a voice for policy solutions to end the climate crisis. CALC states that “there are an increasing number of businesses who understand that internal sustainability initiatives will not be sufficient to end the climate crisis. The true cost of emitting greenhouse gases must be incorporated into our market-based economy.” The group is launching a pilot program that asks companies to hire a Climate Action Liaison to work within the organization part-time or full-time to 1) advocate in favor of policy as a representative of the business; 2) strategic initiatives within the business to increase preparedness and resilience to climate change; and 3) building the coalition. Susan's business and others have taken this step.
- **Apply for PARKing Day 2013 Spot** – PARK(ing) Day 2013 will be on September 20. 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, games, dog parks, and music. To apply, [fill out the application here](#). For more information, contact Jennifer Lawrence at 617-349-4671 or [jlawrence@cambridgema.gov](mailto:jlawrence@cambridgema.gov).
- **Ecodistricts** – Five delegates from the Kendall Square neighborhood and the Community Development Department attended the [EcoDistricts Incubator](#) in Portland, OR last month. The incubator is a three-day intensive workshop designed to accelerate city revitalization and sustainable development at the neighborhood scale (versus doing it building by building). EcoDistricts (formerly known as the Portland Sustainability Institute) selected eight cities including Cambridge to participate in this year's workshop. The workshop facilitated discussions to develop a roadmap for establishing an ecodistrict in Kendall Square. [\[Community Development Department media release, 5/29/13\]](#)
- **Sunshot Reports** – The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources has posted new reports and guidance aimed at making it easier and less costly to install solar PV systems. The new documents, which were produced under DOER's Sunshot Rooftop Solar Challenge grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, include *Community Shared Solar: Review & Recommendations for Massachusetts Models* and *Community Shared Solar: Implementation Guidelines for Massachusetts Communities*, and documents

related to DOER's solar lending outreach to financial institutions. These documents can be found on the [DOER website](#). DOER also updated its [Distributed Generation & Interconnection website](#), which tracks requests to utilities including NSTAR to connect onsite electric generation systems such as solar PV. A municipal toolkit for solar PV permitting will be forthcoming. [Guidance on structural reviews for 1 and 2 family dwellings](#) is available. The City of Cambridge was a partner in the DOER project. The Community Development Department will post soon guides to installing solar PV for condominiums and for rental properties and a guide to solar PV permitting in Cambridge.

- **SILA: Play on Climate Change** – The Underground Railway Theater in Central Square is planning on staging a play next year about climate change called [Sila](#) by playwright Chantal Bilodeau. To become involved with the play, contact Debra Wise, Co-Director of the Catalyst Collaborative@MIT project at [dwise@undergroundrailwaytheater.org](mailto:dwise@undergroundrailwaytheater.org).
- **Unwanted Furniture** – The Department of Public Works is partnering with several non-profit organizations to collect and reuse unwanted furniture that is in good condition, including mattresses. To find out about options and contact information for the various organizations, see the [DPW Recycling Division website](#).

## RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **Chicago Urban Flooding Case Study** – The Center for Neighborhood Technology, a Chicago-based organization, has a new report on [The Prevalence and Cost of Urban Flooding: A Case Study of Cook County, IL](#). The report was also reviewed in [Atlantic Cities](#).
- **Green Roofs/Walls & Noise Reduction** – According to new research from the European Union, green walls and green roofs have the potential to reduce urban noise. The original article requires a subscription, a summary can be found on the [Alliance for Community Trees website](#).
- **Philadelphia Green Infrastructure** – The [City of Philadelphia has a 25-year plan to reduce stormwater pollution](#) through green infrastructure strategies. They were one of the first communities to win approval under an EPA consent agreement to get credit for green infrastructure in place of grey infrastructure.
- **Faster, Smarter, Greener** – [Faster, Smarter, Greener: the state of city innovation on climate change and other urban challenges](#) is from The Climate Group. It presents a survey and case study analysis of 50 cities and their efforts to become smarter and more agile in addressing challenges such as climate change.
- **Database on CHP Policies & Incentives** – [dCHPP](#) is a new EPA database on policies and incentives to support combined heat and power systems.
- **EPA Adaption Webinars** – The EPA has archived presentations and recordings of webinars from its [Local Climate & Energy Webcast series](#) which include climate change adaption topics covered in March, April, and May 2013.
- **Increasing Bicycling for Daily Travel** – A new report on [How to Increase Bicycling for Daily Travel](#) has been published by Active Living Research, a project of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
- **Visual Story Lab** – Resourcemia has published a guide on [Seeing is Believing: A Visual Storytelling Guide](#). The guide focuses on the importance of visual input to persuade and change behavior on issues such as climate change.
- **Hub of Startups** – The [new geography of major global start-up cities](#) (good news, Cambridge-Boston is prominent).
- **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](mailto: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](mailto:katrina@sbnboston.org).

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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](mailto: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.