

# Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

## CPAC BULLETIN

July 2013

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**MEETING:** The next meeting of the Climate Protection Action Committee is scheduled for Thursday, July 11, 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

- **Imagine a Sustainable Life Quilt** – The quilt is on tour around various public venues. This month it is on view in the lobby of the Cambridge Water Treatment Plant at Fresh Pond. The quilt was created by the [Sprouts of Hope](#), a Cambridge-based group affiliated with Jane Goodall's [Roots and Shoots](#) youth-focused organization.
- **Greenport Forum** - July 16 at 7:00 pm: Cambridge Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment. Let your voice be heard. The first step to make Cambridgeport more resilient and adaptable to climate change is to understand how we are vulnerable or resilient in terms of impacts resulting from increased temperatures, more intense storms, and storm surge flooding associated with sea level rise. The City of Cambridge is looking at impacts on people, infrastructure, public health, and the local economy. The City is undertaking a climate change vulnerability assessment, which will serve as the foundation for a climate change resilience and adaptation plan. Greenport is holding this public workshop presented by city staff, to solicit feedback from the Cambridgeport community. Cambridgeport Baptist Church, 459 Putnam Ave (corner of Magazine and Putnam).
- **Harvard Adaptation Seminars** – The Harvard Graduate School of Design is offering two summer executive education courses on climate change adaptation and design/planning. One is on [Climate Adapted Design: Regions, Infrastructure, and Finance](#) which will be held on July 31. The other course is [Climate Adapted Design: Buildings, Neighborhoods, and Rules](#) which will be held on July 30. 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. For more info, [click here](#).

- **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

- **Resilient Communities for America** – Cambridge is one of 45 inaugural communities in the [Resilient Communities for America](#) campaign sponsored by ICLEI, National League of Cities, U.S. Green Building Council, and the World Wildlife Fund. The campaign agreement, which was signed by Mayor Henrietta Davis, lays out three commitments for local elected officials: urge state and federal leaders to support local resilience initiatives and take meaningful steps to building resilience and security throughout the nation; build community resilience through their own self-defined local actions and goals; and share their solutions and success stories with other local governments to help accelerate progress on resilience.
- **MLK Project Groundbreaking** – A groundbreaking ceremony was held on June 17 for the new [Martin Luther King Jr. School Construction Project](#) on Putnam Avenue. The school has used an integrated design process that focused on making the building as energy efficient as possible and adding a significant amount of onsite energy generation from solar photovoltaic panels in order to push the performance to as close to net zero energy as possible.
- **Obama Climate Action Plan** – [President Obama announced his climate action plan](#) at an event held at Georgetown University on June 25<sup>th</sup>. The plan calls for the establishment of carbon pollution standards on new and existing powerplants; increase funding for clean energy technology development and deployment; reduce emission of non-CO2 greenhouses gases such as methane; obtain 20 percent of the federal governments electricity from renewable sources by 2020; support climate-resilient investments at the local level by removing policy barriers and other steps; pilot innovative strategies in the Superstorm Sandy affected areas to strengthen communities against future extreme weather; launch a public-private partnership to create sustainable and resilient hospitals; and provide tools for climat resilience to state, local, and private sector leaders to enable smart decisions. Efforts to work internationally will be expanded and U.S. funding for coal-fired powerplants abroad will end with limited exceptions.
- **CEA Residential & Business Energy Surveys** – The Cambridge Energy Alliance, a program of the City's Community Development Department, is conducting energy surveys of residential and commercial renters. Participants who complete the surveys will receive a free 7-socket Smart Power Strip (a \$30 value). A widescreen television plugged into your Smart Power Strip can save more than \$140 per year! Just one computer station plugged into your Smart Power Strip can save more than \$100 per year! [Take the residential survey here.](#) [Take the business survey here.](#)

## RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **NYC Post-Sandy Plan** – New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's administration issued its plan to rebuild areas impacted by Hurricane Sandy and to make the city more resilient to climate change events. The report is titled [A Stronger, More Resilient New York: The City's Long-Term Plan to Further Prepare for the Impacts of a Changing Climate](#). The City also commissioned the New York City Panel on Climate Change to produce the [Climate Risk Information 2013: Observations, Climate Change Projections, and Maps](#) which provided a technical basis for the post-Sandy report.

- **HUD Hurricane Sandy Rebuild Design Competition** – [The HUD Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force has launched a design competition to help rebuild the area impacted by the storm.](#) The competition is looking for design proposals that create regional solutions, contribute to a better understanding of the area's strengths and vulnerabilities, and connect to local organizations and governments. Design teams will be asked to concentrate on one of four focus areas: coastal communities, high-density urban environments, ecological and water body networks, and the unidentified and unexpected. HUD has issued a Request for Qualifications that is due July 19. Five to ten design teams will be selected to receive \$100,000 for a three-month analysis and collaboration phase followed by an additional \$100,000 to design site-specific proposals. The winning designs will be implemented in the spring of 2014.
- **Climate Interpreter** – [Climate Interpreter](#), supported with funding from NOAA, is a learning resource for communicating about climate change.
- **Climate Parents** – [Climate Parents](#) is an advocacy organization of parents fighting climate change.
- **Clean Tech Economy Leaders** – States and cities are ranked by research firm Clean Edge on their clean-tech leadership on the basis of 20 criteria including policy measures, capital investment, number of green buildings, and amount of clean electricity. Massachusetts is the #2 state behind California. The Boston Metro area is ranked #10. [\[Fast Company\]](#)
- **AdaptNY** – [AdaptNY](#) is a digital journalism project of the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism designed to give New York's stakeholders information and a voice on the "massive, once-in-a-lifetime urban planning policy process" around the recovery from Hurricane Sandy and preparations for climate change.
- **City Vitality & Carbon** – The Carbon Disclosure Project connects climate action to the health and wealth of cities in its report [Wealthier, Healthier Cities](#).
- **MBTA Sustainability** – Read about the [MBTA's sustainability efforts](#).
- **PEV Challenges & Opportunities** – ACEEE has a new report titled [Plug-in Electric Vehicles: Challenges and Opportunities](#). The report includes life-cycle analyses of PEVs.
- **PACENow Annual Report** – PACENow issued its [2012 Annual Report](#) which describes the accelerating adoption of Property Assessed Clean Energy programs, particularly in the commercial sector.
- **JOB: ABC Sustainability Programs Coordinator** – A Better City is seeking a [Sustainability Programs Coordinator](#).
- **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.