

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

December 2013

MEETING: The next meeting of the Climate Protection Action Committee is scheduled for December 12, 6:00 pm, City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway. The meeting is open to the public. The [agenda](#) will be posted on the Community Development Department website. The featured topic this month is discussion on the development of the Cambridge Community Compact for a Sustainable Future with Mayor Henrietta Davis.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **Evolving Landscape & Regulatory Framework of Solar PV** – December 13, 9:00 am to 12:15 pm, Foley Hoag, 155 Seaport Blvd., 13th Floor, Boston. New England Restructuring Roundtable. Open to the public.
- **Carbon Exchange Tax Forum** – Sunday, December 15, 12:30 – 2:30 pm, Cambridge Friends Meeting, 15 Longfellow Park. Topic: Massachusetts Carbon Exchange Tax: What is it? Will it make a positive difference? Speakers: Senator Mike Barrett & Gary Rucinski, Chairman, Committee for A Green Economy. Senator Barrett is sponsoring state legislation to establish the carbon exchange tax and the Committee is working on a ballot initiative. A light lunch will be served before the presentations.
- **Boston Area Sustainability Group** – January 7, 6:00 to 9:00 pm, The Venture Café, One Broadway, 4th floor, Cambridge. Topic: Effecting Social Change at the Community Level. Speakers: Richard Pearl, State Street Corp.; Greg Hills, FSG; Becky Snow, Adidas Group. [Register here](#).
- **CERES Conference** – April 30 – May 1, 2014, Westin Waterfront Hotel, Boston. Registration opens in December. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Local Solutions: Northeast Climate Change Preparedness** – May 19 to 21, 2014; Manchester, NH. A networking and training conference for public and private stakeholders. The third day of the conference is an educators summit. [Register 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 Goes All Year in Cambridge** – Most Cambridge-based stations of the Hubway bikesharing system will continue to be available through the winter as the City pilots a plan to provide year around service. Hubway will be responsible for keeping the stations clear of snow and ice. The only Cambridge station that will be removed for the winter is the one at Lafayette Square/Main Street. The regular seasonal closing of stations in Boston, Brookline, and Somerville will be in effect still. [[CDD Media Release, 11/19/13](#)]
- **150 Second Street Earns LEED Platinum** – The new laboratory research building at 150 Second Street has earned a LEED Platinum rating under the Core & Shell rating system of the U.S. Green Building Council. The 36,000 square foot building was constructed by Skanska. According to The Green Engineer, which consulted on the project, this is the first commercial lab building to receive a LEED Platinum rating in New England under version 3 of LEED which went into effect in 2009. The key features of the project include a 39% water use reduction; a rain garden; a water reuse system that captures rainwater and condensate for reuse in flushing; and a 30% energy cost savings. [The Green Engineer newsletter, 12/13]
- **BRA Climate Preparedness Guidelines** – The Boston Redevelopment Authority has approved [new guidelines on climate change preparedness](#) for development projects subject to its review. A checklist has been formulated, which BRA applicants must respond to and address during the review process.
- **Climate CoLab Proposals** – The MIT Climate CoLab is soliciting proposals to address climate change. A 2014 Proposal Workspace has been created to crowdsource ideas. When the 2014 round of the Climate CoLab contests are released, the ideas can be moved into a relevant contest. Submissions can involve technology, policies, products, public outreach campaigns, educational programs, economic models, community projects, and any other new ideas. For more information, [click here](#).

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **Mass. Global Warming Solutions Act Dashboard** – The Commonwealth has created a [greenhouse gas dashboard](#) to report on trends and progress in GHG mitigation.
- **2030 Palette** – Architecture 2030 has created the [2030 Palette](#), an online interactive platform that illustrates the principles and actions behind low-carbon and resilient built environments for architects, planners, and designers.
- **Are Solar Panels Facing the Wrong Way** – An [interesting article](#) about research by the Pecan Street Research Institute on west-facing rooftop solar panels and electricity production during peak demand periods.
- **Abrupt Climate Change** – A [new report from the National Research Council](#) assesses the state of knowledge on abrupt climate change. The report can be downloaded for free. [[Climate Central, 12/3/13](#)]
- **Climatecounts.org** – Climate Counts scores the world's largest companies on their climate impact to spur corporate climate responsibility and conscious consumption. To view the tool, [click here](#).

- **Climate CoLab Conference Video** – Video from the 2013 Climate CoLab conference held at MIT in November has been [posted online 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 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 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.