

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

June 2014

MEETING: The next meeting of the Climate Protection Action Committee is scheduled for June 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 meeting this month is primarily a working session for the committee focusing on urban heat islands and solar energy planning.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **Master Plan Listening Sessions** – Cambridge is preparing for a city-wide master plan process. In advance of launching into the master plan process, the City is seeking community input about the best way to set up a process. The Community Development Department has scheduled a series of meetings and drop-in sessions through the month of June. The schedule can be found by [clicking here](#). For more information, contact Stuart Dash at sdash@cambridgema.gov or 617-349-4640.
- **Bike Plan Open House** – June 12, 5:00 to 8:30 pm, Cambridge Public Library, lower level. The open house is for people to find out more about the Cambridge Bicycle Network Plan and provide input. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Sustaining Coastal Cities** – June 16-18, MIT Tang Center. A climate change symposium bringing together leaders in academia, government, and private industry to address concerns about sea level rise, storm surges, extreme precipitation and flooding, and options for adapting to these risks. To register, [click here](#). Registration fees apply.
- **BEUDO Public Hearing** – June 24, 3:00 to 5:30 pm, City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway, 2nd Floor meeting room. The City Council Ordinance Committee will hold a [public hearing](#) on the proposed Cambridge Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance (see *News* section for more info).
- **Net Zero Task Force** – June 25, 6:00 pm, Citywide Senior Center, 806 Mass. Ave. This is a regular meeting of the Getting to Net Zero Task Force which is charged with coming up with recommendations by the end of the year on how to move Cambridge toward being a net zero greenhouse gas emissions community in terms of building energy use. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Summer Bicycle Workshops** – July 17, *Rules of the Road*, 7:00 pm; July 25, *Urban Cycling Basics/Hubway 101*, 12:00 pm; July 26, *On-bike Training*, 2:00 pm at the Alewife Bike Cage, northside of Alewife MBTA Station; August 14, *Bike Maintenance Basics*, 7:00 pm. All workshops take place at the Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway, unless otherwise noted. Please RSVP to Jennifer Lawrence, jlawrence@cambridgema.gov or 617-349-4671. Sponsored by the Cambridge Community Development Department.
- **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](#).
- **Walk/Ride Day Corporate Challenge** – Annual workplace competition in which organizations throughout Cambridge and surrounding cities and towns compete one day each month from April through October to have staff check in their commute online and consider healthier and more environmentally friendly choices

(transit, bicycle, walk, etc.) Data show significant green shifts among participants on Walk/Ride Days and other days throughout the month. Promoted by Green Streets Initiative, a Cambridge-based grassroots group. [Register your company for the Challenge here.](#)

- **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

- **BEUDO Proposed** – On May 19, [City Manager Richard Rossi submitted a proposed Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance to the City Council](#) for its consideration. Basically, the proposed ordinance would, if approved, require municipal buildings over 10,000 square feet, non-residential buildings over 25,000 square feet, and residential buildings with 50 or more units to annually report their energy use to the City. The City would use the data for planning purposes and would also disclose the basic energy use data and building attributes on a public website. The ordinance is intended to address the lack of information in the marketplace about building energy performance. This policy initiative follows a recent trend among cities concerned about climate change and sustainability, including Boston, New York, San Francisco, Seattle, Washington, DC, Austin, Philadelphia, Minneapolis, and Chicago (see [Institute for Market Transformation](#) and the [BuildingRating.org](#) website for more information). Montgomery County, Maryland is the most recent local government to adopt a similar requirement. The City Council referred the proposed ordinance to the Ordinance Committee, which will hold a public hearing on June 24 at 3:00 pm at City Hall Annex. For more information, contact John Bolduc, jbolduc@cambridgema.gov or 617-349-4628.
- **Solar Charging Station in Kendall Square** – [BioMed Realty](#), a major life science property owner and developer, installed an outdoor, solar-powered charging station in Kendall Square in the North Plaza open space area near the Genzyme building (the ice skating rink site). The station was supplied and installed by [GoalZero](#). Users are able to charge their mobile phones and tablets using built-in USB ports for free. The stations have solar photovoltaic panels and lithium batteries so that the station works day or night.
- **EPA Climate Action Plan** – As part of [President Obama's Climate Action Plan](#) and using its authority under the Clean Air Act, the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released its Clean Power Plan](#) which will for the first time cut carbon pollution for existing power plants. The plan calls for a 30 percent reduction in carbon pollution below 2005 levels. Power plants are the single largest source of carbon pollution in the U.S. While the plan seeks a national 30 percent reduction, the EPA set state by state targets in recognition of different circumstances in each state. Massachusetts must cut carbon pollution from the power sector by 37.7 percent, or reduce carbon dioxide emissions from 925 lbs/mwh (2012 level) to 526 lbs/mwh. An [interactive map](#) shows the requirements for each state. [\[Governing, 6/4/14\]](#)

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **CEA Community Outreach Coordinator** – The Cambridge Energy Alliance, a program of the Community Development Department, is seeking a Community Outreach Coordinator. This is a summer position to coordinate a community canvass and manage canvassers and support other outreach efforts. For more information, contact Meghan Shaw at outreach@cambridgema.gov. To apply, submit a resume and cover letter by June 13.
- **State of Local Climate Planning Report** – MIT researchers, working with ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, has issued a new report on the state of climate protection efforts by local government. [Progress and Challenges in the Urban Governance of Climate Change](#) is based on a recent global survey.
- **Homes with PV Sell for More** – [A study by Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory](#) finds that homes in California equipped with solar PV systems sell for a premium.
- **Cambridge Open Data Portal** – The City of Cambridge has launched its [Open Data Portal](#), where various types of data sets are made available.
- **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.