

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

October 2015

MEETING: The next meeting of the Climate Protection Action Committee is scheduled for October 8, 6:00 pm, City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway. The October meeting will focus on follow ups to the September meeting with the City Manager and general committee business. The agenda for the meeting will be posted on the [Community Development Department website](#).

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **Four Global Health Threats, Four Global Health Opportunities** – October 5, 9:00 am to 1:30 pm, Joseph B. Martin Conference Center, 77 Avenue Louis Pasteur, Boston. The event will address social and environmental threats and the effect of natural disasters in humanitarian crises. To RSVP, [see the event webpage](#). This is part of Hubweek.
- **BASG** – October 6, 6:00 pm, Venture Café, One Broadway. *Topic:* Clean energy and renewables. [To register, click here](#). Sponsored by the Boston Area Sustainability Group.
- **Understanding & Mitigating Natural Gas Leaks** – October 7, 9:30 to 11:30 am; Quincy Public Library, Community Meeting Room, 40 Washington Street. Panel discussion about the extent and nature of leakage from the natural gas distribution system and how to deal with them. The panel will include Professor Nathan Phillips; BU; Senator Jamie Eldridge; Owen O’Riordan, Cambridge Public Works Commissioner; John Stavrakas, National Grid. Sponsored by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and HEET. [To register, click here](#).
- **Solve** – October 5-8, MIT. The conference will convene technologists, philanthropists, business leaders, policy makers, and change agents to examine and address problems around the four themes of learn, cure, fuel, and make. The fuel theme includes climate change. This conference runs in tandem with the Crowds and Climate Conference. Portions of the conference are open; for more information and to register, [click here](#).
- **Crowds & Climate Conference** – October 6, MIT. This is the annual conference sponsored by the MIT Climate CoLab. Climate CoLab contest winners will present their ideas on how to tackle specific climate change problems, including from the Cambridge contest on mitigating local urban heat islands. For more information, [click here](#).
- **How Will Boston Adapt** – October 7, 4:00 to 6:00 pm, Sanders Theatre, Harvard. Panel with Atyia Martin, Boston Chief Resilience Officer; Carl Spector, Boston director of climate planning; James McCarthy, Harvard; Robert Young, Western Carolina University; moderated by Dan Schrag, Harvard. This part of Hubweek. For more information and to register, [click here](#).
- **Biodiversity for a Livable Climate** – October 16, Tufts University. This year’s theme is “restoring water cycles to reverse global warming”. Sponsored by Biodiversity for a Livable Climate. For more information and to register, [click here](#).
- **Rising Seas Summit** – November 3-5, Boston Sheraton Hotel. This is an annual professional conference convening national and local government, industry, academia, and environmental NGOs to highlight the interrelationships between sea level rise, climate change and extreme events. One of the keynote

speakers will be renowned climate scientist Michael Mann. Sponsored by the Association of Climate Change Officers. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

- **Protecting Critical Infrastructure** – November 6, 8:30 to 10:00 am, Seaport Boston Hotel. A panel discussion on protecting the Greater Boston region's transportation, water, and utility infrastructure with representatives from MassDOT, MWRA, Massport, and Eversource, and Senator Marc Pacheco and Rep. Frank Smizik of the Legislature's Joint Committee on Global Warming & Climate Change. Sponsored by A Better City. [To register, click here](#).
- **Somerville Trash Bash** – November 8, 2:00 to 8:00 pm, Aeronaut Brewery, Somerville. This is the third annual recycled art festival. Artists can enter the competition, but space is limited. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Local Solutions Conference** – April 4-6, 2016, Baltimore. This is the [Eastern Regional Climate Preparedness Conference](#) hosted by Antioch University and the EPA. Details will be forthcoming.
- **Friends of Alewife Reservation Walks** - Friends of Alewife Reservation is a stewarding and educational non-profit for the Alewife Reservation in northwest Cambridge and for the surrounding city natural resources of marshes and wetlands abutting Belmont and Arlington. Free wildlife and history educational tours, clean ups and conservation initiatives for the silver maple forest. "Virtual" Tour of the Reservation: [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](#).
- **350MA.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 6:30 PM. 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

- **CPAC Appointments** – City Manager Richard Rossi has made new appointments to the Climate Protection Action Committee, which advises him on climate change policy and implementation. The new members are: Sarah Brylinsky (representing MIT); Amber Clifton (program manager, Just-a-Start); Tim DeGarmo (representing Cambridge Health Alliance); Christopher Nielson (architect); Keith Giamportone (architect); Mina Makarious (environmental attorney); Olga Faktorovich Allen (sustainability consultant); Kris Locke (representing Harvard); Sarah Kennedy (representing Chamber of Commerce); Paula Phipps (educator); Ted Live (citizen); Sarah Mandlebaum (sustainability consultant); Keren Schlomy (environmental attorney); Shawn Hesse (architect); and Thomas Chase (sustainability non-profit/consultant). The City Manager also re-appointed: Betsy Boyle, Peter Crawley, Lyn Huckabee, Johanna Jobin, Lauren Miller, Tom Page, David Rabkin, Marguerite Reynolds, William Zamparelli, and

Quinton Zondervan. Rosalie Anders and Melissa Chan continue in their current terms. Jackie Cefola, Sarah Hill, and Suzanne Shepard were appointed as Associate Members.

- **In It to Win It** - It's getting cooler outside, but Cambridge's competition in the [Georgetown University Energy Prize](#) is heating up! The schools are back in session and they're In It to Win It—on September 30th over 500 CRLS students participated in the [Alliance for Climate Education](#) assembly to learn about why climate change is important to them and how they can take action to reduce energy use and emissions in Cambridge. And the [Education First Glocal Challenge](#) has over 100 students signed up for teams to find solutions to wasted energy in Cambridge. Adults can get involved, too—the Cambridge Energy Alliance is looking for a block captain coordinator and block captains to lead action at the neighborhood scale. Apply [online](#) today or email us at WINIT@cambridgema.gov to help Cambridge Win It!
- **Iram Farooq Heads CDD** – Iram Farooq was [named Assistant City Manager for Community Development by City Manager Richard Rossi](#) on September 21. Iram is a long time member of the Community Development Department (CDD) staff and had been serving in an acting capacity as department head. As the leader of CDD, she oversees economic development, housing, community planning, and environmental & transportation planning.
- **Paris COP Commitments Go 1 Degree of the Way** – [Climate Interactive](#), an organization based at MIT, has developed a scoreboard to track national commitments for the upcoming Conference of Parties climate negotiations in Paris. The scoreboard projects that the current commitments would reduce global temperature increases by one degree Celsius compared to a business as usual scenario. Without action, global average temperatures are projected to increase by 4.5 degrees C (8.1 degrees F) by 2100. With the announced national contributions, temperatures are projected to increase by 3.5 degrees C (6.3 degrees F). The *de facto* target that most nations agree needs to be achieved to avoid catastrophic climate change is 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit). Climate Interactive uses scenarios that assume reductions continue after the pledge period of 2025 or 2030 to identify pathways to reach 2 degrees C. For instance, to limit the global temperature increase to 2 degrees C, one pathway would be for all countries to peak their emissions by about 2030 and reduce emissions every year by 3.5 to 4.0%. Climate Interactive develops scenario based tools. C-Roads is the software used for this analysis. It can be downloaded for free by anyone who wants to test their own scenarios. [[New York Times, 9/28/15](#)]
- **LEED 2009 Energy Upgrade** – The U.S. Green Building Council is [proposing to increase the minimum requirements for energy performance under LEED 2009](#) during the transition period to the new Version 4 of LEED, which takes full effect after October 31, 2016. If approved by the membership, the minimum requirements for each LEED 2009 rating system would be upgraded. For instance, LEED 2009 New Construction would require achievement of at least 4 energy points. LEED (for Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) is the leading green building standard. The Cambridge green building requirements in Article 22 of the Zoning Ordinance are based on LEED.
- **DOE Zero Energy Definition** – The U.S. Department of Energy has issued a new definition for zero energy buildings following a multi-stakeholder engagement process. The definition states a Zero Energy Building is “an energy-efficient building where, on a source energy basis, the actual annual delivered energy is less than or equal to the on-site renewable exported energy.” The new definition is described and discussed in [A Common Definition for Zero Energy Buildings](#). The definition also applies to campuses, portfolios, and communities. [[US DOE media release, 9/16/15](#)]

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **ULI Resilience Reports** – The Boston/New England Chapter of the Urban Land Institute has issued two new reports related to sea level rise and resilience. [Developing Resilience: Living with Water Strategies for Greater Boston](#) is a follow up to the previous report *The Urban Implications of Living with Water*. [Advancing Resiliency in East Boston](#) is a Technical Assistance Panel Report based on a

planning/design charrette convened with the Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH) and the Kresge Foundation.

- **Climate Interactive Tools** – [Climate Interactive](#), the MIT-based organization, develops simulation tools to help understand climate change and other complex challenges. The tools include Climate Bathtub Animation to understand the stocks and flows nature of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change; C-Roads to simulate pathways to mitigate future climate change; and a green infrastructure simulation developed for Milwaukee.
 - **Boston Food Resilience Study** – ICIC produced [Resilient Food Systems, Resilient Cities: Recommendations for the City of Boston](#), which looks at how Boston’s food system could withstand disruption from extreme weather.
 - **MAPC Urban Heat Island Map** – The Metropolitan Area Planning Council has developed a [Metro Boston urban heat island map](#), based on satellite data for surface temperatures.
 - **NASA Study on Urban Vegetation, Temperature, & Runoff** – A [NASA study](#) shows how vegetation changes the effect of impervious areas in cities. Communities with up to 35% impervious cover maintain comparable temperatures to surrounding areas. But above that temperatures are modified. How much is greatly affected by the amount and type of vegetation. [[Fast Company, 9/8/15](#)]
 - **WXShift** – The Weather Channel has a new website that ties together daily weather and climate change. [See the WXshift website.](#)
 - **Sustainability & Real Estate Financing** – Useful [USGBC blog post](#) about the effect of sustainability measures in real estate financing.
 - **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 Mapdwell 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. The Mapdwell tool was upgraded in September 2015 and can now be viewed in Spanish.
 - **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!
 - **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.
 - **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.
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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 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.