

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

July 2014

MEETING: The next meeting of the Climate Protection Action Committee is scheduled for July 10, 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 a working session for the committee, which will break into two groups to focus on urban heat islands and planning for solar PV.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **Greenport Forum** – July 15, 6:30 pm. *An Urban Foraging Walk with David Craft*. Walk to identify wild edible plants growing in and near Cambridgeport and best ways to prepare plans that grow in the local environment. David Craft is an artist, musician, wild edible plant forager, scientist, and author of *Urban Foraging*. Meet at Gallery 263, 263 Pearl Street, Cambridge. Event is free; donations to Gallery 263 welcome.
- **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

- **Cambridge Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance** – At its meeting on June 30, the City Council accepted the [Ordinance Committee's report and recommendation](#) to approve the proposed Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance and referred the ordinance to second reading. The City Council may vote on the ordinance at its mid-summer meeting on July 28.
- **PACE Bill Advances** – The proposed legislation sponsored by Senator Brian Joyce and others to amend the state's enabling legislation for Property Assessed Clean Energy financing is advancing through the Legislature. The legislation, now numbered as Senate Bill No.2255 (formerly S.177), was reported out favorably by both the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Public Utilities, and Energy as well as the Senate Ways and Means Committee. A vote by the Senate is expected imminently. If the Senate votes favorably, then the bill will be taken up by the House Ways and Means Committee and the House of Representatives. Comments can be submitted to House Speaker Robert DeLeo and House Ways and Means Chairman Brian Dempsey. The bill must be taken up by the end of July to be considered in the current session. While Massachusetts currently has an enabling law in place authorizing PACE financing, it has not been implemented due to various structural issues and lack of financing. The amendments would authorize state bonding to provide financing of clean energy and resiliency improvements to commercial buildings that would be administered through local property tax programs. Commercial PACE programs have been successful in other states such as Connecticut.
- **DPU Grid Modernization Orders** – On June 12th, the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities issued two orders that are expected to lead to fundamental changes in the distribution of electricity in the Commonwealth. The first order (DPU 12-76-B) requires each utility to develop a 10-year grid modernization plan to empower customers to better manage and reduce electricity costs, enhance reliability and resiliency in the face of extreme weather, encourage innovation and investments in new technology and infrastructure, and address climate change and meet clean energy requirements by better integrating clean and renewable power, demand response, electricity storage, microgrids, electric vehicles, and energy efficiency. The second order (14-04-B) requires utilities to set time of day pricing for electricity. For more information, [click here](#).
- **New Climate CoLab Contests** – The MIT Climate CoLab has issued new contests to address climate change. [Communicating Coastal Risk and Resiliency](#): *How do we best communicate climate risk and resilience to coastal communities?* which is sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). And [Global plan](#): *What combination of actions can be taken in the world as a whole to address climate change?* The Climate CoLab uses these contests to crowd source solutions to climate change. For more information about the Climate CoLab, [click here](#).
- **EV Rebates** – The Patrick Administration announced a \$3.4 million Electric Vehicle Rebate Program and Charging Station Grant program in June. The MOR-EV rebate program will provide \$2 million for rebates of \$2,500 per eligible vehicle purchased or leased after June 18, 2014. The charging station grant program will provide 50% funding for charging station hardware costs up to \$25,000 for employers to install level 1 and 2 charging stations for EVs and plug-in hybrids. Governor Patrick signed an eight-state MOU to get at least 3.3 million zero emission vehicles on the road by 2025. Massachusetts' goal is for 300,000 zero emission vehicles. ([Governor's press release, 6/18/14](#))
- **Planning Board Members Sought** – City Manager Richard Rossi is seeking residents interested in serving on the Cambridge Planning Board. For more information about the Planning Board and how to apply, [please click here](#). Interested persons should submit a resume and brief letter of interest via email, mail, or fax by August 1, 2014 to Richard C. Rossi, City Manager, City of Cambridge, 795 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139, citymanager@cambrigema.gov, fax: 617-349-4307.

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **Economic Risks** – The Risky Business Project released a comprehensive report titled [Risky Business: The Economic Risks of Climate Change in the United States](#). The project is led by former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, former Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson, and investor Tom Steyer.
- **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.