

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

April 2011

MEETING: The next meeting of the Climate Protection Action Committee is scheduled for Thursday, April 14, 6:00 pm at City Hall Annex, Second Floor. The agenda will be posted on the [CPAC webpage](#).

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **Massachusetts Sustainable Communities Conference** – April 15, Holiday Inn, Marlborough. For practitioners of community sustainability. Keynote speakers include Mark Sylvia, Commissioner of Energy Resources and Jim Walker, Vice President and Director of Solar Grid-Tie Projects at Ameresco. For agenda and registration info, click [here](#).
- **Climate Science Forum** – April 15, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University, [Something in the Air: Climate Change, Science, and Policy](#). The registration deadline is April 11. It is open to the public and free.
- **Street Trees in Cambridgeport** – Tuesday, April 19, 7:00 pm, Cambridgeport Baptist Church, 459 Putnam Avenue. The Greenport Forum will feature David Lefcourt, City Arborist and Ellen Coppinger, Landscape Administrator of the Cambridge Public Works Department speaking on street trees in the Cambridgeport neighborhood, how they mitigate climate change, and what citizens can do.
- **2011 Cambridge Science Festival** – April 30 to May 8. The annual festival celebrating science, includes many activities around energy and sustainability. This year's festival includes a Climate Literacy 101 game, a guided urban eco scavenger hunt, green building tours, the Swissnex Smarter Living events, and other similar activities. See the calendar of events [here](#).
- **TROMP Tutorials** - [TROMP](#) Tutorials will be held on April 29 and May 19. Anyone interested in participating should contact Melanie Arzt at manager@trompcambridge.org
- **May is GoGreen Month** – A month-long celebration of transportation options, recycling, and energy conservation. Events include Bike Week celebrations, commuter appreciation days, transportation fairs, the GoGreen Awards, Cambridge Energy Alliance events, and other activities. For a calendar events, click [here](#).
- **Swissnex Green Events** - Swissnex Boston, the consulate of Switzerland located in Cambridge, is sponsoring a series of events during GoGreen Month focused on sustainable living. They include a family day during the Cambridge Science Festival, where kids will learn about energy consumption of urban living, and a display at the Cambridge Public Library called "Smarter Living – 2000 Watt Society". To learn more, visit the [Swissnex website](#) or the [Smarter Living Facebook page](#).
- **Sustainable Business Network Conference** – The 22nd SBN Conference on Sustainable Business will be held on May 7, UMass Boston. Bill McKibben of 350.org will be the keynote speaker. To register, click [here](#). Fees apply.
- **River Monitoring & Climate Change** – May 18 & 19, Doyle Conservation Center, Leominster. Conference presented by the [Massachusetts Rivers Alliance](#) in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game.
- **New England Energy Efficiency Conference & Expo** – May 19, Gillette Stadium, Foxborough. Hosted by NSTAR and National Grid.

- **2011 GoGreen Awards** – The 2011 GoGreen Awards will be presented at an event on Thursday, May 26. The details of the event will be announced shortly.
- **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.

NEWS

- **Landlord Energy Workshop** – The Cambridge Energy Alliance, Mass. Rental Property Association, and the Cambridge Community Development Department co-sponsored a workshop on March 19 at City Hall Annex. The half-day workshop drew 45 attendees and featured presentations about energy efficiency programs by representatives from Conservation Services Group and Next Step Living, and about renewable energy opportunities from S+H Construction. The presentations covered the energy assessment process, utility incentives and financing, and the logistics of installing measures. The presentations are posted on the [Cambridge Energy Alliance website](#).
- **Bike Repair Stands** – The City has installed [bike repair stands](#) at three locations. The stands provide tools for self-repairs including Allen wrenches, a tire lever, and air pump. The stations are located at Fresh Pond Reservation (by the public entrance near the clock tower), Harvard Square (in the parking lot at the corner of Eliot and Brattle Streets under the Harvard Square Hotel), and the Cambridge Main Library (along the path to the right of the entrance as you face the building).

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **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** – Residents, businesses, and organizations can indicate their interest in the services of the [Cambridge Energy Alliance](#) by going to the website and registering. No obligation is implied. Those who register will receive an email in response with a telephone number to call to schedule an energy audit.
- **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.
- **Cambridge Businesses Composting** – Currently 62 businesses and organizations have signed up for the Department of Public Works commercial organics collection service. Restaurants, hotels, florists and others are diverting about 20 tons of food and other organic waste to composting daily, and saving money

and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the process. Interested businesses and organizations can contact Save that Stuff, the City's contractor, for more information at 617-241-9998 or adam@savethatstuff.com.

- **MCAN Low Carbon Living Program** – The [Massachusetts Climate Action Network](#) works with its local member organizations to develop teams of 5 to 8 households to assess their household carbon footprints and undertake actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The program is based on the Low Carbon Diet workbook and involves 3 to 4 meetings.

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.