

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

June 2011

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

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **Climate Change Adaptation Workshop** – June 20, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, Leominster. The Trustees of Reservations and the Consensus Building Institute are presenting a one day course for municipal and community leaders and planning professionals, providing the tools they need to assess the impacts of climate change and manage the risks it poses. There are still seats open. A registration fee of \$45 (\$30 for TTOR and MACC members) applies. For more information, click [here](#).
- **Film: Economics of Happiness** – Showing of the film [The Economics of Happiness](#) followed by a discussion; June 21, 7:00 pm, Cambridgeport Baptist Church, 459 Putnam Avenue, sponsored by Greenport.
- **Guided Tree Walks** – City Arborist David Lefcourt will lead three [guided tree walks](#). The walks begin at 5:30 pm and last about two hours. *Wednesday, June 22*, North Cambridge, meet at Russell Field parking lot; *Tuesday, June 28*, East Cambridge, meet in front of Kennedy-Longfellow School; *Wednesday, June 29*, Mid-Cambridge, meet at the beech tree at the Main Library (will include Wayne Carbone of Harvard talking about the trees in Harvard Yard).
- **Film: The Last Mountain** – [The Last Mountain](#), a documentary film about coal produced by Eric Grunebaum of Cambridge, will screen for one-week at the Kendall Square Cinema, beginning June 24th. *The Last Mountain* premiered at Sundance this year and has been favorably reviewed by the [New York Times](#), [Huffington Post](#), and [Salon.com](#). Eric will respond to questions after the premier on the 24th. See the film link above to see the trailer.
- **HEET Barnraising** – June 25, 12:30 to 5:00 pm, St. Bartholomew's Church, 239 Harvard Street. There will be lots of great skills to learn including caulking, replacing bulbs, lowering water bills with faucet aerators and toilet banks, correctly programming thermostats, and more. Sponsored by the Home Energy Efficiency Team (HEET). RSVP [here](#).
- **Let's Talk About Food Festival** – [Let's Talk About Food Festival](#), Saturday, June 25, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm along the Cambridge Parkway. The initiative was founded by food and health writer and advocate Louise Kasdon in collaboration with the Museum of Science. The event sponsors say "Let's Talk About Food Initiative hopes to become a national, educational, event driven organization that creates programs to increase the level of public literacy about all aspects of our food system – from sustainability, to cooking, to obesity and other food-related health issues, to fishing and farming, food access, food justice, food safety, environmental concerns, agriculture and nutrition policy, and at the same time celebrates the richness that good food brings to our world."
- **Meeting on Green Schools** – The City Council Environment Committee will hold a public hearing on energy efficient and green schools on Wednesday, June 29, 5:30 pm at City Hall (795 Mass. Ave.) in the Sullivan Chamber.
- **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

- **2011 GoGreen Awardees** - The 2011 GoGreen Awards were presented to Cambridge businesses and organizations at an event on May 26 hosted by Swissnex, the consulate of Switzerland. Over 100 attendees celebrated the accomplishments of the awardees. The 2011 awardees are:

Community Sustainability: **Transition House**

Transportation/Small Organization: **Charles River Transportation Management Association**

Transportation/Large Organization: **US DOT/RITA Volpe National Transportation Systems Center**

Climate Protection/Large Business: **Akamai Technologies**

Energy/Small Organization: **Homeowner's Rehab, Inc./CNAHS**

Energy/Large Organization: **Shady Hill School, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Museum of Science**

Waste Reduction/Large Business: **Cambridge Common Restaurant and Hotel Marlowe**

Waste Reduction/Residential: **Watermark Cambridge**

Stormwater Management/Large Business: **The Bullfinch Companies and CASCAP, Inc.**

City Employees: **Wayne Amaral and Adam Schulman, Traffic, Parking & Transportation Department**

Information about the awardees will be posted at the City's [GoGreen webpage](#) and photos will be posted on the Public Works Department webpage. Congratulations to all the awardees!

- **Get \$125 AC Swap Voucher** – For a limited time, the Cambridge Energy Alliance, with funding from the City's Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant, is offering residents a \$125 voucher opportunity to swap their inefficient window air conditioner for an Energy Star rated unit. Once the disposal of the old AC unit is confirmed by the Public Works Department large item collection program, participants will receive a \$125 voucher which can be used toward the purchase of the new unit at TAGS, Economy Hardware, Pill Hardware, Dickson Brothers True Value, or Sears. Go to the [CEA website](#) for more information and to sign up.
- **Take the 50% Recycling Pledge** - The City of Cambridge invites you to pledge to recycle at least 50% of your trash. Visit the City's [Recycling](#) webpage to take the pledge and get a free "Recycle More Trash Less" sticker! Cambridge residents are great recyclers, but can do better. Cambridge residents recycle 35% of their trash, but did you know that 25% of what is still thrown out could be recycled? The pledge is open to Cambridge residents, City departments, schools, businesses, houses of worship and community groups. Recycling conserves energy and natural resources, curbs climate change and creates jobs. The City saves \$50-\$70 per ton when everyone recycles more. Make a commitment to recycle more and trash less. Please tell your family, friends and neighbors to join in taking the pledge today! A little effort makes a big difference.
- **More LED Street Light Trials** – The Electrical Department and Community Development Department are testing out two roadway scale 1907 "tear drop" street lights and three pedestrian scale acorn lights on Cambridge Street between Oakland Street and Stellabella Toys at 1356 Cambridge Street. The installation

is temporary and for evaluation of the lights for possible use in the city. If you have comments, send them to George Fernandes, gfernandes@cambridgema.gov or Iram Farooq, ifarooq@cambridgema.gov.

- **Efficiency Gains Nullified by Growth and Gadgets** - According to the [U.S. Energy Information Administration](#), American homes used far less energy for home heating than they did in the 1970s, but overall residential energy consumption remains almost the same. Energy use in homes occupied as primary residences was about 10.58 quads in 1973 which dropped slightly to 10.55 quads in 2005. Energy consumption remained level even though the number of homes increased 45%. This was possible because of the improved energy efficiency of heating equipment and better building envelopes. Upward pressure on energy use was also caused by increased use of consumer electronics, in particular, personal computers, televisions and related devices. In 1978 personal computers were not typically used by U.S. homes, but in 2009, 76% of U.S. homes had at least one computer (35% had multiple computers). In 1978, most households typically had only one television, but in 2009, the average household had 2.5 televisions. Over 45% of homes have at least one television with a screen size of 37 inches or larger (screen size and average energy use per television had continued to grow over time); 44% of homes had 3 or more televisions. Devices such as DVD players, DVRs, and cell phones, which didn't exist in the 1970s, have also added to electricity demand.

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **Climate & Energy Jobs at VHB** – Vanasse Hangen Brustlin has openings for two positions in its Climate & Energy Practice. They are seeking a Project Officer and a Project Manager. The positions can be based in Watertown, Albany, or Orlando. The application deadline is June 24. For more information, see the [VHB jobs website](#) and browse the current openings. The post date is 6/6/11.
- **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.
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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.