

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

July 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

- **Swiss Clean Energy Vision** – July 13, 4:30 to 7:00 pm, MIT, Room 3-133. Talk by [Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard](#), Switzerland's Minister of Energy & Environment, followed by roundtable discussion with local experts on sustainability and energy. Given concerns about climate change and nuclear power, Minister Leuthard will present Switzerland's vision and strategy on renewable energy and energy efficiency. RSVP [here](#).
- **Beekeeping in Cambridgeport** – July 19, 6:30 pm, 115 Pearl Street and 7:00 pm, 9 Perry Street. A tour and talk with two bee keepers on location. Learn about the bees and how beekeepers function in a very tight urban location. Sponsored by Greenport. For more information, contact Steve Wineman at swineman@gis.net.
- **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

- **Central Square Advisory Committee** – The City is seeking applicants to serve on the [Central Square Advisory Committee](#). As part of the [Kendall Square – Central Square Planning Study](#), this committee will advise City staff and a team of consultants in developing a vision and multidisciplinary plan for Central Square. The deadline for applications is July 15. A letter describing your interest and any experience related to the study's issues should be emailed to Iram Farooq, Senior Project Manager in the Community Development Department, at ifarooq@cambridgema.gov or faxed to 627-349-4669.
- **State EE Appliance Rebate Program** – The Commonwealth will launch an [energy efficient appliance rebate program](#) on July 28. Participants can receive a rebate of \$150 by replacing an inefficient refrigerator with an Energy Star rated model and a \$50 rebate for a window air conditioner. Funding is limited to \$2 million and will be allotted on a first come, first serve basis until the funds run out.

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **AC Swap** – The Cambridge Energy Alliance's window air conditioner swap program is in progress. Residents can obtain a voucher for \$125 if they swap an inefficient window AC unit for an Energy Star rated model. This is a limited time offer. Go to the [CEA website](#) for participation details.

- **Take the 50% Recycling Pledge** – The City is urging residents and businesses to take the [50% Recycling Pledge](#). Cambridge residents recycle about 35% of their trash, but assessments indicate that another 25% could be recycled. Take the pledge today!
- **Cambridge Statistical Profile** – The Community Development Department has updated the [Statistical Profile of Cambridge](#) with the 2010 U.S. Census data.
- **EEAC Report** – The Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council has issued its [2010 Report](#) on the Commonwealth's progress on energy efficiency. The report notes that Massachusetts spends about \$22 billion annually on energy (approximately \$5,000 per household), with about \$18 billion leaving the state.
- **Bike & Ped Facilities are Good for Jobs** – A report by the Political Economy Research Institute at UMass Amherst issued a report titled [Pedestrian and Bicycle Infrastructure: A National Study of Employment Impacts](#). The study found that bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure projects created more jobs per dollar invested than road projects.
- **US Mayors Clean Energy Solutions Report** – The US Conference of Mayors issued a report titled [Clean Energy Solutions for America's Cities](#). The report is based on a survey of clean energy activities in American cities. The survey found that 75% of cities expect their deployment of clean energy technologies to increase over the next five years despite challenging economic conditions.
- **Green Cities Index** – The Economist Intelligence Unit with sponsorship by Siemens has issued the [US and Canada Green City Index](#). While the actual rankings are highly questionable, the survey of green activities among the leading cities in North America is interesting.
- **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.