

# Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

## CPAC BULLETIN

### May 2014

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**MEETING:** The next meeting of the Climate Protection Action Committee is scheduled for May 8, 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 primarily a working session for the committee.

#### EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **Boston Area Sustainability Group** – May 6, 6:00 to 9:00 pm, Venture Café, One Broadway, 5<sup>th</sup> floor. The topic is *Sustainable Transportation: We can get there from here!* Speakers include Janie Katz-Christy, Green Streets Initiative; Jackie Douglas, Livable Streets Alliance; Ned Codd, MassDOT; Gary Rennie, EPA Region I; and Alexis Bateman, MIT Center for Transportation & Logistics. To register, [click here](#).
- **YouthCAN Summit** – May 10; 9:30 am to 3:00 pm, MIT Stata Center. This is the annual summit of youth organizations who care about climate change that is spearheaded by students from Boston Latin School. Speakers include Rachel Gutter, Center for Green Schools; Chloe Maxmin, Harvard Divest; and Tem Blessed, climate justice hip hop artist. A wide range of workshops is also offered. The event is free. For more information, [click here](#).
- **SILA** – Through May 25 at the Central Square Theatre. *Sila* is the play by Chantal Bilodeau about climate change set in the Arctic. For the schedule and to buy tickets, [click here](#). There are a number of post-performance events that go along with the play, which are free. To see the schedule, [click here](#). On May 6, 7:00 pm local poets will share their stories about climate change.
- **Cambridge Biosafety Forum** – May 13 & 14, 5:00 to 8:00 pm, Cambridge Hospital Campus, 1493 Cambridge Street, Macht Auditorium (brick building on left side, rear). For residents, biosafety community, elected officials and staff, and others interested in biosafety. Cambridge residents willing to serve on a institutional biosafety committee can attend free. Registration fees apply for others. To register, contact Ashleigh Belanger, [abelanger@safetypartnersinc.com](mailto:abelanger@safetypartnersinc.com) or 781-222-1022, x36.
- **Deep Energy Retrofit Workshops** – May 21, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Merrimack College. The workshop looks at building science, design, and methods for deep energy retrofits. Marc Rosenbaum, Director of Engineering at South Mountain Company, is the featured speaker. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Local Solutions: Northeast Climate Change Preparedness** – May 19 to 21, 2014; Manchester, NH. A networking and training conference for public and private stakeholders. The third day of the conference is an educators summit. [Register here](#).
- **Risk & Resilience in the Built Environment** – May 21, 12:30 to 1:30 pm, webinar sponsored by the Sustainable Performance Institute. Speaker: Guy Sapiirstein, PhD. The webinar focuses on the physical environment and the operations of organizations and companies. Free. For more information, [click here](#).
- **NEEP Summit** – June 2-3, Newport, RI. The annual summit of the Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership is focused on *The Low-Carbon Future: Scaling Up Energy Efficiency in a Brave, New, Dynamic World*. For more information, [click here](#).

- **Bike Plan Open House** – June 12, 5:00 to 8:30 pm, Cambridge Public Library, lower level. The open house is for people to find out more about the Cambridge Bicycle Network Plan and provide input. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Sustaining Coastal Cities** – June 16-18, MIT Tang Center. A climate change symposium bringing together leaders in academia, government, and private industry to address concerns about sea level rise, storm surges, extreme precipitation and flooding, and options for adapting to these risks. To register, [click here](#). Registration fees apply.
- **Sustainability Management Course** - The ever popular course “Strategies for Sustainability Management”, taught by Bob Pojasek, will be offered in the Harvard Summer School. Classes are on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm from June 21 to August 4, 2014. The course syllabus is posted on the [class website](#). This is an open enrollment course that covers the same topics as the Spring distance learning version in the Harvard Extension School. This course examines how sustainability can be implemented in a range of different organizations in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Registration is open until May 19 2014.
- **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](http://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

- **Harvard Climate Statement** – On April 7, [Harvard President Drew Faust issued a statement](#) about the university’s role in confronting climate change and new commitments the institution is making. President Faust stated “Worldwide scientific consensus has clearly established that climate change poses a serious threat to our future – and increasingly to our present. Universities like ours have produced much of the research supporting that consensus, as well as many of the emerging ideas helping us to begin confronting that challenge. Yet we have far more work ahead to chart the path from societies and economies fundamentally dependent on fossil fuels to a system of sustainable and renewable energy. We must devote ourselves to enabling and accelerating that transition – by developing the technologies, policies and practices that would make it possible – if we are to mitigate the damage that rising greenhouse gas levels are inflicting on the planet.” She lays out three areas of initiative: 1) launching a new Climate Change

Solutions Fund seeded with \$1 million and for which alumni and friends are challenged to raise \$20 million to fund research on innovative approaches; 2) acceptance of a task force review of Harvard's goal to reduce GHG emissions by 30% below 2006 levels by 2016 and committing to continue exhausting on-campus energy efficiency and carbon reduction projects, establishing an advisory group on carbon offsets to complement on-campus reductions, and creating a sustainability committee led by senior faculty to shape the next generation of solutions and strategies on campus; and 3) strengthening the university's role as a long-term investor to advance progress towards addressing climate change by becoming a signatory to the United Nations supported Principles for Responsible Investment and to the Carbon Disclosure Project.

- **New Hubway Stations** – Two new Hubway bike sharing stations have been installed. One is at Dana Park on Lawrence Street in the Cambridgeport neighborhood and the other is at Danehy Park. Four additional stations will be installed this spring including one on Kendall Street in Kendall Square donated by BioMed Realty. [[CDD press release, 4/10/14](#)]
- **Sustainability Compact** – The Cambridge Compact for a Sustainable Future has a [new website](#). The website lists the growing number of signatories, provides background information including a video, and provides information on how to participate. Organizations and individuals can participate as Signatories or as Compact Resources. The current Compact signatories are the City of Cambridge, Harvard, MIT, Akamai Technologies, Alexandria Real Estate Equities, Biogen Idec, BioMed Realty, Boston Properties, Cambridge Innovation Center, Cambridge Redevelopment Authority, CDM Smith, Draper Laboratory, Forest City Commercial Group, Genzyme, Google, Homeowners Rehab, Novartis, NSTAR/Northeast Utilities, Twining Properties, and Whole Foods Market.
- **Cambridge Bicycle Network Plan** – The Community Development Department is developing the Bicycle Network Plan and seeks input from the community. The network plan will be a core component of the *Towards a Bikeable Future*, which is the Cambridge bicycle master plan intended to move Cambridge toward being an “8-80” city – one where everyone whether they are 8 or 80 will be able to choose to bicycle comfortably and safely throughout the city. There are a number of ways to provide input including submitting specific comments and suggestions on a wikimap, providing general comments, responding to an online survey, and/or attending the June 12 open house to comment and mark up maps. To be put on the bike plan notification list, send an email to [bikeplan@cambridgema.gov](mailto:bikeplan@cambridgema.gov). For more information, [click here](#).
- **MIT Climate CoLab** – The MIT Climate CoLab is soliciting proposals for new contests to crowdsource solutions to climate change and is also offering an incentive for promoting contests. For more information on current contests and how to submit a proposal, see the [Climate CoLab website](#). For help in spreading the word about the project, Climate CoLab is offering cash prizes to anyone who refers someone who wins the ultimate contest prize. A referral for the contest winner can earn \$1,000. Climate CoLab was recently featured in an [article in The Guardian](#).

## RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **Job** – [Zero Net Energy Buildings Program Manager](#), MA Department of Energy Resources. Applications due May 12.
- **RMI Video** – A nice, short video from the Rocky Mountain Institute about creating solutions for building energy use titled [A Tale of Two Futures: Sustainable Buildings or Unsustainable Climate Change](#).
- **Washington, DC Net Zero Cost Study** – The New Buildings Institute in association with the District of Columbia, International Living Future Institute, and Skanska released a study titled [Net Zero and Living Building Challenge Financial Study](#).

- **Arup Cities Alive Report** – A new report titled [Cities Alive](#) from Arup, the global engineering/sustainability firm, on how cities can address population growth, climate change, resource depletion, pollution, and urbanization by creating more sustainable communities that consider nature as a primary concern in development and where designers recognize the value of ecosystem services.
- **Green New York City** – A [vision of a really green New York City](#) by Terraform Research.
- **Energy Star Certified Cities** – The EPA issued lists of the large, medium, and small cities with the most Energy Star Certified buildings. [[Ecobuilding Pulse, 4/11/14](#)]
- **Economics of Grid Defection** – A report titled [The Economics of Grid Defection](#) from the Rocky Mountain Institute on what happens when solar PV and batteries join forces to make the electric grid optional.
- **Parking Summit Presentations** – [Video and presentations](#) from the 2014 Parking Conference sponsored by MAPC, including the presentation by Stephanie Groll, Cambridge PTDM Officer.
- **US Conference of Mayors Climate Report** – The U.S. Conference of Mayors issued a report on its 282-city survey on the state of [Climate Mitigation and Adaption Actions in America's Cities](#).
- **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](mailto: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](mailto:katrina@sbnboston.org).
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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](mailto: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.