

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

March 2014

MEETING: The next meeting of the Climate Protection Action Committee is scheduled for March 13, 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 featured topic this month is waste reduction initiatives and strategy in Cambridge with Randi Mail, Recycling Director.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **GreenPort Forum** - Tuesday, March 11 at 6:30pm: Climate Emergency Refuge in Cambridgeport - A Discussion with Faith Based Organizations. As we face climate uncertainties, resilience within our own neighborhoods is key - with neighbors looking after one another. Places of refuge play a critical role. Join us for initial discussions and problem solving with leaders of faith based organizations in Cambridgeport: Eitz Chayim, Cambridgeport Baptist Church, and Church of the Nazarene. At Eitz Chayim Synagogue, 134 Magazine St, Cambridge.
- **2014 Walk/Ride Day Kickoff & Celebration** - [2014 Walk/Ride Day Kick-Off, Networking, and 2013 Awards Celebration](#) on March 19, at the Volpe Center, open to the public and especially encouraged for coordinators at companies new to the Challenge ([details and tickets here](#)).
- **Mass. Land Conservation Conference** - March 22, Worcester Technical High School, One Skyline Drive. Annual conference of the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition. The conference includes climate change-related sessions. [To register, click here](#).
- **Biopharma Sustainability Roundtable** - March 26 & 27, The Catalyst at Tech Square, Cambridge. Sponsored by Meridian. [Click here for information](#).
- **BASG Forum** - April 1, 6:00 to 9:00 pm, The Venture Café, One Broadway. This month's topic is Healthy People - Healthy Planet: Healthcare & Sustainability. Presenters include Janet Bowen, EPA; Kyle Cahill, Blue Cross Blue Shield; Hermine Levey Weston, Practice Greenhealth; Monica Nakielski, Partners Healthcare; and Kumkum Dilwali, Green Guide for Healthcare. For more info and to register, [click here](#).
- **MAPC Parking Summit** - April 8, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, Colonnade Hotel, Boston. Keynote speaker is Donald Shoup, Distinguished Professor of Urban Planning, UCLA. A summit bringing together local and state officials, public and private sector planners and engineers, developers, academics and advocates, to discuss the impact that parking has on transportation, land use, the environment, public health, and the bottom line. Every community thinks they have a parking problem, but do we understand what the real problem is? This summit will explore how parking policies have evolved, and how they fail to meet the parking needs of today and dive into the most effective strategies to manage a parking system and think of parking as a tool to help achieve other goals for economic development and affordable housing, regardless of the size of a community. Participants will leave the summit with concrete tools and strategies for making parking work for their community. Smarter parking policies can help reduce traffic and vehicle emissions; encourage walking, biking and transit; promote economic development and affordable housing; reduce stormwater runoff; improve public health; and make our neighborhoods more livable. Sponsored by MAPC. For registration and session info, [click here](#).
- **Massachusetts Sustainable Communities Conference** - April 17, 2017, UMass Lowell Conference Center. This annual conference connects stakeholders from government, grassroots, education, and

business. Everyone wanting to learn more about best practices, current trends, and resources will find this conference timely, practical and valuable. This conference has sold out in the past. Register by March 20 for a reduced rate. To register, [click here](#).

- **CERES Conference** – April 30 – May 1, 2014, Westin Waterfront Hotel, Boston. 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](#).
- **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 Transit Plan** – Working with the [Transit Advisory Committee](#) and the MBTA, the City has issued a [Transit Strategic Plan Interim Report](#) that identifies seven overarching goals for the plan that will be developed over the next two years. The goal of the process is to develop an action plan for how Cambridge will take a stronger leadership role to improve quality and expand capacity of our transit system. The meeting schedule of the advisory committee can be found on its website. The committee is expected to address resiliency, one of the overarching goals, at its June meeting.
- **City Council Committee Assignments** – The City Council has set its committee assignments for the current term. The Health and Environment Committee consists of Councillors Cheung (chair), Carlone, Mazen, and McGovern. The Transportation and Public Utilities Committee consists of Councillors Carlone (chair), Benzan, Cheung, and Kelley.
- **2014 Walk/Ride Challenge** – The Green Streets Initiative is registering employers for the 2014 Walk/Ride Corporate Challenge. The Challenge is an annual competition among Cambridge and Boston area employers to become the green commuting champion. Participating organizations encourage their staff to

commute car-free on the last Friday of every month. Employees are eligible for prizes. To register, [click here](#).

- **RGGI Investments Generate \$2 Billion in Energy Savings** – According to a [new report](#), the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is projected to return more than \$2 billion in lifetime energy bills savings from the \$700 million in revenue from the auction of greenhouse gas pollution credits. The programs funded by RGGI revenue will avoid the need for about 8.5 million megawatt hours of electricity and avoid the release of about 8 million tons of carbon dioxide. The report was issued by RGGI, a consortium of Northeastern states including Massachusetts.
- **Green Communities Act Benefits** – According to a [new report](#) funded by the Barr Foundation and produced by the Analysis Group, a Boston economic and financial consulting firm, the Green Communities Act is projected to yield a net benefit of \$1.2 billion over 15 years, including creating about 16,000 jobs. The report does not quantify environmental benefits.

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **Net Zero Task Force** – The [project webpage of the Net Zero Task Force](#) includes updates, documents and presentations, and a sign up button for the email notification list.
- **DC Energy Report** – The [District of Columbia has issued its first set of private building energy data](#) under their building energy use reporting and disclosure ordinance. Washington, DC is the second city along with New York City to disclose energy data.
- **Cool Roofs Help Roll Back Warming** – According to new research published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, a large enough number of such roofs could completely offset warming due to urban expansion and even offset a percentage of future greenhouse warming over large regions. [\[Scientific American, 2/14/14\]](#)
- **Climate Interactive** – Climate change policy simulator tools generated by [Climate Interactive](#), an MIT-based team advised by Dr. John Sterman.
- **EnergyVision** – Environment Northeast's new [EnergyVision report](#) on "a pathway to a modern, sustainable, low carbon economic and environmental future".
- **AVERT** – [AVERT](#) is a free tool produced for the U.S. EPA by Cambridge-base Synapse Energy Economics that enables state air quality planners and other interested persons to evaluate county-level emissions displaced at electric power plants by energy efficiency and renewable energy policies and programs. The tool is designed to be used by non-experts.
- **NAS Climate Change Evidence & Causes Booklet** – The National Academy of Sciences has produced a new easy to understand booklet titled [Climate Change: Evidence and Causes](#).
- **Climate Change Atlas** – The U.S. Forest Service has produced a [Climate Change Atlas](#) that documents the current and possible future distribution of 134 tree species and 147 bird species in the Eastern U.S. and give detailed information on environmental characteristics defining the distributions.
- **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.
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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.