

As the summer comes to an end, the Economic Development Division wanted to let you know about upcoming events, opportunities for small businesses and fall workshops. [Check out our new website to learn more about all the programs we offer here at the City of Cambridge for entrepreneurs and business owners.](#)

## Upcoming Events

### Free Small Business Energy Audits for NStar Customers

Beginning in August, Prism Energy Services, a vendor for the Mass Save energy efficiency program, has been performing complimentary walk-in energy consultations for small businesses in Central, Harvard, Inman, and Kendall Squares. The [Cambridge Energy Alliance](#), a City of Cambridge program, urges every small business to take advantage of Prism's complimentary energy consultation since it is the first step toward making your small business more energy efficient and reducing monthly energy expenses. Upcoming dates that the auditors will be available from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m are as follows:

Inman Square - August 21st and 22nd  
Kendall Square - August 28th and 29th

If you missed the day that Prism was in your district or would like more information on this energy saving offer, please contact Michael Roach, Inside Sales/Service Manager at [miker@prismenergyservices.com](mailto:miker@prismenergyservices.com) or call 617-328-9896 ext. 112.

### Events In the Square

[Central Square](#) - Central SW!NGS - Thursdays in August, starting at 5:30 p.m. Events are at Jill Brown-Rhone Park or University Park Common. Enjoy live dance, music, theater and movies from the various Central Square cultural institutions.

[Harvard Square](#) - Think Pink, Drink Pink - Harvard Square Business Association is proud to present the 7th Annual Think Pink, Drink Pink, Shop Pink campaign to raise funds for Breast Cancer charities. The campaign runs in various Harvard Square businesses until August 31st. Check out [harvardsquare.com](http://harvardsquare.com) for participating businesses.

[Inman Square](#) - Inman FUNCH - Thursdays in August, 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m., Vellucci Plaza. Grab your lunch and join us for a free afternoon of music and wellness!

[Kendall Square](#) - Kendall Square Movie Night - Thursday,

### Quick Links

[Economic Development Division](#)

[Fall 2012 Workshop Calendar](#)

[Facade Signage and Lighting Program](#)

[Best Retail Practices Program](#)

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August 23, 7:00 p.m., Volpe Center lawn, 55 Broadway. enjoy free music and humor from The Levins and Uncle Eye & Aunt Julia before the movie starts!



### **Porter Square Customer Intercept Survey - Coming Soon!**

This September watch out for CDD staff and volunteers to be surveying customers in the Porter Square neighborhood. The purpose of the customer intercept surveys is to allow CDD to have a better understanding of what Cambridge residents and Porter Square customers want in their commercial districts. The survey was previously done in both [Central](#) and [Kendall](#) Squares. If you are interested in survey volunteering or have questions on the survey, please contact Pardis Saffari at [psaffari@cambridgema.gov](mailto:psaffari@cambridgema.gov) or 617-349-4654.

### **Small Businesses Eligible for \$225,000 in Tech Funding**

Small businesses can seek up to \$225,000 to fund bioscience work in the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Program. NSF expects to make 25 awards from the \$5.6 million available. The Foundation set a November 20, 2012 application deadline.

In the initial phase of STTR, at least 40% of the research must be performed by the small business and 30% must be performed by a collaborative research institution. Proposals must use bio-based technologies such as synthetic biology, systems biology and computational biology.

Socially and economically disadvantaged and women-owned small businesses are encouraged to apply. Joint ventures and partnerships are allowed to apply as long as the applying entity qualifies as a small business. Applicants are urged to use research and expertise at colleges, universities and national laboratories. [For full information on the Small Business Technology Transfer Program, click here.](#)

### **Register for a Fall Workshop!**



Save the date! This fall the Economic Development Division has a variety of workshops for Cambridge entrepreneurs and small businesses.

[A full calendar of workshops from September - December 2012 can be seen here.](#)

Highlights include:

**Cambridge Business Assistance Info Session** - Monday, September 10, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Interested in the City of Cambridge's programs for small businesses? Come to this workshop to learn more about what we offer and to register for workshops.

**Purchasing with the City** - Thursday, September 27, 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Are you a local Cambridge business interested in learning how you can do business with the City of Cambridge? The Purchasing Department will be on hand to answer your questions on how to become a vendor and to learn about what your business can offer to the City. This workshop is a part of Local Economy Week.

**Best Retail Practices Workshop** - Wednesday, October 3, 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Hear from retail consultants about best practices in retail interior design, marketing and advertising. Cambridge businesses will also learn about eligibility for Parts 2 & 3 - in-store consultations and the grant program.

**Real Estate Leasing Basics for Small Businesses** - Wednesday, October 17, 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. This workshop will go over the basic provision of a lease and discuss business issues, legal issues and options and variations of a small business lease.

**To pre-register for these workshops please contact Rona Holmes at 617-349-4637 or [rholmes@cambridgema.gov](mailto:rholmes@cambridgema.gov) or Pardis Saffari at 617-349-4654 or [psaffari@cambridgema.gov](mailto:psaffari@cambridgema.gov).**

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