

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

January 2018

MEETING: Happy New Year! The Climate Protection Action Committee will meet in on January 11th, 6:00 pm at City Hall Annex, 2nd floor. The agenda focus is on review of progress on the Net Zero Action Plan and discussing the goal of the city being a center of climate change solution innovation. The agenda for the meeting will be posted on the [Community Development Department website](#).

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **BASG** – January 9, 6:00-8:30 pm, Venture Café, One Broadway. This event will be a workshop by [Change is Simple](#), an environmental science education non-profit, to improve how one practices and shares the many messages of sustainability at home, at work, and in our communities. For more information and to register, [click here](#).
- **Climate Adaptation Forum** – January 12, 7:30-11:30 am; UMass Club, One Beacon Street, Boston. The topic is “Risk Management Choices: Adaptation Strategies by Government and Insurers”. The forum is presented by the Environmental Business Council and UMass Boston Sustainable Solutions Lab. For more details and to register, [click here](#).
- **Alewife Corridor Resilience** – January 19, Arlington Town Hall, 730 Mass. Ave. and January 20, Tufts University Alumnae Lounge, 108 Packard Ave., Medford. The first day is a keynote and reception with Dr. Robert France of Tufts University and the second day is an all-day event with workshop sessions and roundtables. The event is co-sponsored by Tufts University and the Earthos Institute. For more information and to register, [see the event website](#).
- **Urban Environmental Justice** – February 24, Harvard School of Public Health. The conference will focus on EJ in the context of public space, public health, and inclusion. For more information, [click here](#).
- **MIT Energy Conference** – March 2 & 3. Boston Marriott Cambridge. For more information, [click here](#).
- **MIT Sustainability Summit** – March 9, Four Seasons Hotel, 200 Boylston Street, Boston. The theme this year is “Good Jobs for a Thriving Economy: Inspiring Business from the Inside; Mobilizing from the Outside.” [To see the program and to register, click here](#).
- **Climate Changed Symposium** – April 20-21, MIT. The symposium will conclude the Climate Changed competition to see how models can inform our response to climate change. The competition is focused on three sites including MIT area, Alewife/Fresh Pond, and East Boston. For more information, [see the competition website](#).
- **Eastern Climate Preparedness Conference** – April 30-May 2, 2018, Manchester, NH. The largest climate change adaptation conference in the eastern US is now open for registration. Program and registration details have been posted. The 2018 Local Solutions Conference is organized by Antioch University. The regional conference alternates every other year with the National Adaptation Forum. The City of Cambridge is a co-sponsor. [Program and registration information are available here](#).
- **Friends of Alewife Reservation Walks** - [Friends of Alewife Reservation](#) is a stewarding and educational non-profit for the Alewife Reservation in northwest Cambridge and for the surrounding city natural resources of marshes and wetlands abutting Belmont and Arlington. It focuses on implementation

of federal stormwater regulations, flooding and water quality in the Little River, and development improvement projects such as work at Blair Pond.

- **350MA.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 at First Church Cambridge, 11 Garden Street (Harvard Square). The next meeting is on December 12th.
- **Green Cambridge** - [Green Cambridge](#) works to bring neighborhood resiliency to individuals and communities across Cambridge by empowering individuals to embrace renewable energy, practice urban agriculture, care for our urban tree canopy, and utilize sustainable transportation. Green Cambridge meets monthly at the Eastern Bank community room in Harvard Square, usually on the third Thursday of every month from 7:00-8:30pm. All are welcome and invited to attend! For more information and a listing of community events, including volunteer opportunities at our prototype urban farm, please visit: [greencambridge.org](#).

NEWS

- **CCPR Alewife Comments** - The City has issued the first component of the Climate Change Preparedness & Resilience Plan. The first component is a neighborhood scale plan for the Alewife-Fresh Pond area. The plan consists of a summary plan, a handbook, and three technical appendices. The plan can be downloaded from the [CCPR project webpage](#). Look for the documents under the “CCPR” tab. Comments can be made by using the [CCPR Alewife digital platform](#) or by sending comments to John Bolduc, project manager, at jbolduc@cambridgema.gov or mail to John Bolduc, Community Development Department, 344 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02139. The comment period is open until January 12.
- **Urban Forest Master Plan Task Force** – City Manager Louis A. DePasquale is seeking applicants to serve on a new Task Force that will advise and provide guidance and feedback to a project team charged with developing a comprehensive Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP). Applications are due by January 19, 2018. For more information, see the City news release or contact Catherine Woodbury, project manager, at cwoodbury@cambridgema.gov. Applications should be made online at cambridgema.gov/apply.
- **Grayson Sets Record Storm Surge** – The “bomb cyclone” nor’easter Grayson set a new record for storm surge in Boston, surpassing the record set by the Blizzard of ’78. The National Weather Service reported the Grayson surge hit Boston at 15.16 feet. The Blizzard of ’78 surge was at 15.10 feet. Grayson hit the Boston area as an astronomical high tide occurred. The concurrence of the very high tide and a 3 foot surge led to extensive flooding in Boston and other communities. Cambridge was protected from the surge by the Charles River Dam and the Amelia Earhart Dam on the Mystic River. Sea level rise also likely contributed to the new record since the ocean has risen a few inches since 1978. [[Washington Post, 1/5/18](#)]
- **Cambridge #1 Walking City** - Cambridge ranks first among all US cities for the percentage of residents who walk to work (25.6%) according to new census data released by the League of American Bicyclists and analyzed by [America Walks](#).
- **BRT Grant** – The Barr Foundation awarded a grant to Cambridge to conduct a pilot project to test bus rapid transit on the route 71 and 73 MBTA buses that run between Cambridge and Watertown. The pilot will use “queue jump” lanes to give buses priority in lane segments on Belmont Street at Mt. Auburn and Mt. Auburn Street at Fresh Pond Parkway and signal priority where feasible. The pilot seeks to provide faster and more reliable commutes to bus riders. Grants were also awarded for pilots in Arlington and Everett. [[Cambridge news release, 12/7/17](#)]

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **EPA Measuring Heat Islands Resource** -The EPA Heat Island Reduction Program posted a new [Measuring Heat Islands webpage](#) on how communities can map and assess their urban heat islands. The resources include the Cambridge methodology used in the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment.
 - **Climate Change & Polar Vortex** – Global warming and extreme cold seem counterintuitive to some, but there is a connection. [Scientific American](#) and the [Union of Concerned Scientists](#) explain.
 - **Global Weirding with Katharine Hayhoe** – Climate scientist Katherine Hayhoe, who produced Cambridge’s climate change projections, has a very engaging Youtube series called [Global Weirding](#) where she explains climate change in topics including “What happens in the Arctic doesn’t really matter, right”; “Is a warmer world, a better world?”, and “The Bible doesn’t talk about climate change, right?” (Hayhoe is an evangelical Christian), among other topics.
 - **Cambridge Recycling News** - Waste reduction fights climate change! [42% of US greenhouse gas](#) emissions are from materials management. Help us meet Cambridge’s waste reduction goals and stay informed with the monthly [Cambridge recycling e-newsletter](#). Full of practical information, helpful tips, and fun events, this newsletter regularly receives compliments from the many Cambridge residents already subscribed! You can sign up quickly [here](#).
 - **Cambridge Climate Change Preparedness & Resilience** – The City its climate change vulnerability assessment that is serving as the foundation for a climate change preparedness plan that is being developed. The CCVA Report – Part 1 covers the risks of increasing temperatures and precipitation and CCVA Report – Part 2 focuses on the risks of sea level rise and storm surges. Both reports are available on the [CCPR project webpage](#), which also provides other information and documents from meetings. The CCPR Plan development has started with a focus on the Alewife area. After a second neighborhood is studied, the full plan will be developed with a goal of completion in 2018. 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 Mapdwell 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. The Mapdwell tool was upgraded in September 2015 and can now be viewed in Spanish.
 - **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!
 - **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.
 - **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.
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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.