

# Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

## CPAC BULLETIN

### February 2018

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**MEETING:** The Climate Protection Action Committee will meet in on Thursday, February 8th, 6:00 pm at City Hall Annex, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. The agenda focus is on reviewing possible actions for the Climate Action Plan and reviewing progress on the Net Zero Action Plan. The agenda for the meeting will be posted on the [Community Development Department website](#).

#### EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **BASG** – February 6, 6:00-8:30 pm, Venture Café, One Broadway. This will be an “Invite to Ignite” event to connect individuals with sustainability organizations in the area. For more information, [click here](#).
- **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](#).
- **Chemical Safety & Climate Preparedness Workshops** – The Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance is holding workshops for hazardous materials users on tools to prepare for extreme weather events, comply with emergency planning requirements, and incorporate toxics use reduction to avoid potential chemical releases. Nearby workshops will be held at UMass Lowell (March 1), Taunton (March 2), Leominster (March 13), and Haverhill (March 27). For more information and to register, [click here](#).
- **MIT Energy Conference** – March 2 & 3. Boston Marriott Cambridge. For more information, [click here](#).
- **BuildingEnergy** – March 7-9, Westin Boston Waterfront. The annual regional conference sponsored by the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association. For program and registration 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 12<sup>th</sup>.

- **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](http://greencambridge.org).

## NEWS

- **City Arborist Recognized** - The Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association (MTWFA) has presented its [17th annual Seth H. Swift Tree Warden of the Year award to David Lefcourt](#), City of Cambridge. David was presented the elegant silver tree award this week. David Lefcourt was recognized for his commitment and dedication to the protection of public trees, and for his work with his community to maintain and improve tree growth and health.
- **Harvard Climate Solutions Grants** – Harvard University has awarded its fourth year of grants from its Climate Change Solutions Fund to seven on-campus projects. The projects include “A New Electrochemical Method of CO2 Capture”; “Imagining Retreat: Notes from the Landscape of Adaptation”; “Health Care in Heat: Assessing Trends in Heat-Related Health Care Provision and Advancing Heat Preparedness in Boston”; “California Climate Adaptation Trust Fund Development”; “Identifying the Challenges and Technical Pathways Toward Reliable, Carbon-Free Energy System in the United States”; “Increasing the Adaptive Capacity of Subarctic and Arctic Aboriginal People to Climate and Sea Level Change Using Innovative, Web-Based Informatic Tools”; and “Cities for Health: A Web-based Tool to Identify Vulnerable Populations and Evaluate the Impact of Energy Grid Decisions to Mitigate Heatwave ‘Hot-Spots’”. Harvard has awarded nearly \$4 million to 31 research projects since the fund was launched. [\[Harvard Gazette, 1/31/18\]](#)
- **Eversource Rate Hike & Solar Charge Approved** – The Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities approved a request from Eversource for a new fee on owners of solar photovoltaic systems. PV systems that are connected to the grid after the end of 2018 could be charged a fixed cost of more than \$100 annually. The fee is meant to cover costs related to maintaining the electric grid that the utility says is passed onto all customers. Solar advocates argue that solar energy helps stabilize the grid. The solar industry argues this fee will dampen the adoption of solar energy. Solar advocates are expected to challenge the fee. [\[Boston Globe, 1/21/18\]](#); [\[Commonwealth, 1/8/18\]](#); [\[SEIA media release, 1/10/18\]](#)
- **Northern Pass** – In a surprising decision, the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee, a state regulatory body, rejected the proposed Northern Pass project which was selected by Massachusetts to deliver electricity generated by dams in Quebec as part of the Commonwealth's efforts to provide more carbon-free power. The project is a partnership between Eversource and Hydro Quebec. It was expected to deliver 15 to 20 percent of Massachusetts' annual electricity consumption. The decision may force the Baker Administration to choose another option for the Commonwealth's power supply. [\[Commonwealth, 2/1/18\]](#)
- **DPU Orders Eversource to Plan for Climate Impacts** – The Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities issued an order requiring Eversource to start preparing for the impacts of climate change and develop a climate adaptation plan. [\[CLF blog, 12/19/17\]](#)
- **2017 Hottest Year Without El Nino** – According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 2017 was the third-warmest year globally, but the warmest year on record without an El Nino in

the Pacific Ocean. The El Nino phenomenon tends to amplify global temperatures. [[Climate Central, 1/18/18](#)]

- **Get Rid of It Right** – The Cambridge Public Works Department launched the new [Get Rid of It Right](#) tool that helps residents look up how to dispose of unwanted items in the home. An app has also been developed that can be downloaded to smartphones.
- **RGGI Expanding** – New Jersey announced it will rejoin the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), the cap-and-trade system for carbon pollution from powerplants that covers most of the Northeastern US states. New Jersey was part of the original set of states that launched RGGI 15 years ago. Former Governor Chris Christie withdrew New Jersey from RGGI. Virginia is also expected to join RGGI. The cap on powerplant emissions will be 45 percent below 2005 levels in 2030. The initiative has also generated billions of dollars of revenue through the auction of emission allowances for clean energy projects. [[Governing, 2/18](#)]

## RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **Jobs** – [Program Assistant, Climate](#), Barr Foundation. [Climate Policy Analyst](#), MA Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs. [Sustainability Coordinator](#), Boston Properties. [Climate Resilience Program Officer](#), Barr Foundation. [Chief Resilience Officer](#), City of Boston.
- **Climate Adaptation & Liability** – [Climate Adaptation and Liability: A Legal Primer and Workshop Summary](#), Conservation Law Foundation.
- **Business Case for High Performance Buildings** – [Business Case for High Performance Buildings](#) is a video course from the Institute for Market Transformation (1:48 hours). The video covers the business reasons to pursue LEED, Energy Star, and other designations that connote high performance.
- **Dallas Urban Heat Island Study** – [2017 Dallas Urban Heat Island Management Study](#) was produced by the Georgia Tech Urban Climate Lab and Texas Trees Foundation.
- **Disaster Prep Saves 6X** – The National Institute of Building Sciences finds that for every dollar spent on federal grants aimed at improving disaster resilience, society saves six dollars. [[CityLab, 1/17/18](#)]
- **Valuing Solar+Storage for Resilience** – [Valuing the Resilience Provided by Solar and Battery Energy Storage Systems](#), Clean Energy Group.
- **IPCC Science Communication Handbook** – [Communications Handbook for IPCC Scientists](#), from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, sets out six principles for effective communication of climate science.
- **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](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 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](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.