

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

March 2018

MEETING: The Climate Protection Action Committee will meet in on Thursday, March 8th, 6:00 pm at City Hall Annex, 2nd floor. The agenda focus is on the climate action plan. The agenda for the meeting will be posted on the [Community Development Department website](#).

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **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](#).
- **NeighborhoodMedia** – March 12, 6:30 pm, CCTV, 438 Mass. Ave. Cambridge Community Television is hosting an info session on its [NeighborhoodMedia community journalism platform](#). CCTV is looking for community advocates, activists, artists, and organizations to share news and perspectives about issues they care about.
- **Urban Farming Conference** – March 16-17, Bunker Hill Community College, Boston. For information, [click here](#).
- **Revitalizing Ecosystems in Greater Boston** – March 31, 9:00 am-4:00 pm, Harvard University Geological Lecture Hall, 24 Oxford Street. [Revitalizing Ecosystems in Greater Boston to Survive Climate Change](#) is sponsored by the Greater Boston Group of the Sierra Club and Biodiversity for a Livable Climate. Keynote speaker is Tom Wessels, author of *The Myth of Progress, Toward a Sustainable Future*.
- **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](#).
- **Zero Hour March** – July 21, Washington, DC. This a march organized by youth for climate justice. See [Zero Hour website](#).
- **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

- **Harvard Pledges to End Its Fossil Fuel Use** – [Harvard University has set new climate change goals](#). The new new goals are for the long term to make the university fossil-fuel free by 2050 and in the short-term to be fossil-fuel-neutral by 2026. For the 2050 goal, this would mean Harvard's electricity purchases will come from clean, renewable sources that do not burn fossil fuels; the campus district energy system will operate without fossil fuels; vehicles owned by Harvard will operate without fossil fuels; and setting targets for purchasing externally-provided services or activities that rely as little as possible on fossil fuels. For the 2026 goal, the university would prioritize aggressive reductions of campus energy use and strive to offset any remaining greenhouse gas emissions in off-campus projects such as renewable energy. Harvard says first that they have set a goal of zero fossil fuels by 2050 because Cambridge and Boston have signaled this is where we are going and second because this is where the science says emissions need to go. [[Harvard Gazette, 2/6/18](#)]
- **Massachusetts Solar Milestone** – Massachusetts passed a significant milestone with the installation of more than 2,000 megawatts of solar electricity through 78,646 projects across the Commonwealth. All 351 towns and cities in the state now have at least one solar PV installation. Governor Baker said that the state is now looking to double the amount of solar energy installed in Massachusetts. [[EOEEA press release, 2/7/18](#)]
- **SLR Rate Increasing** – [Recent analysis](#) of satellite data indicates that the rate of sea level rise is increasing. Over the past 25 years, sea levels have increased about 3 millimeters per year, compared an average of about 1.8 millimeters per year during the 20th century. The analysis detects an increase in the annual rate of sea level rise which could lead to at least 2 feet of sea level rise by the end of the century compared to 2005 if the trend continues. The trend does not take into account other variables such as the fate of the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets. [[InsideClimate News, 2/12/18](#)]

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **Jobs** – [Manager of Cross-Sector Climate Action](#), Second Nature. [Program Assistant, Climate](#), Barr Foundation. [Climate Policy Analyst](#), MA Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs. [Sustainability Coordinator](#), Boston Properties. [Chief Resilience Officer](#), City of Boston.
- **State of Adaptation Field** – The Kresge Foundation assesses the state of the climate adaptation field in [Rising to the Challenge, Together](#).
- **PREP** – [Partnership for Resilience & Preparedness \(PREP\)](#) is a new platform to make climate change and socio-economic data more available and usable. FutureEarth and the World Resources Institute are the lead partners, but they are supported by a number of public and private sector entities including Microsoft, Amazon, ESRI, Google, NOAA, and NASA.

- **SLR Under Paris** – A [new study in Nature Communications](#) projects how much sea level rise the planet would see if global warming is limited to well below 2 degrees Celsius. The study estimates between 0.7 and 1.2 meters until 2300 if the Paris agreement is put fully into effect. However, the study also warns that for every 5 years of delay in peaking greenhouse gas emissions means an additional 20 centimeters of SLR in the end.
- **Climate Life Events Tool** – [Climate Change and Life Events](#) is a neat tool created by a Ph.D. student at Carnegie Mellon University that displays climate change driven temperature increases in terms of life events, such as when the user was born, when their grandmother and mother were born, and when their child was born.
- **100% Renewable Generation Debate** – David Roberts provides [A beginner's guide to the debate over 100% renewable energy](#) in terms of whether it's possible and the right target.
- **Here Comes the Sun** – [Here Comes the Sun](#) is the first in a webinar series from the Urban Land Institute Product Council on making the business case for sustainability.
- **Vibrant Cities Lab** – [Vibrant Forests](#) provides an urban forest tool kit, case studies, research, and other information. The platform was created by the US Forest Service and American Forests.
- **Delivering Urban Resilience** – Capital E, a sustainable economics consulting firm, issued a report titled [Delivering Urban Resilience](#), which presents cost and benefits of citywide adoption of smart surfaces, such as white and green roofs, across Washington, DC, Philadelphia, and El Paso.
- **Negative Emission Technologies** – A report from the European Academies Science Advisory Council on [Negative emission technologies; What role in meeting Paris Agreement targets?](#) looks at how carbon capture and sequestration could help reduce GHG in the atmosphere. [[Inside Climate News, 2/6/18](#)]
- **Corporate Climate Scenarios in Action** – [Putting Climate Scenarios into Action](#) is an interesting webinar about how corporations can use climate scenarios to understand and plan for business risks. The webinar was sponsored by C2ES.
- **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.

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.