

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

April 2018

MEETING: The Climate Protection Action Committee will meet in on Thursday, April 12th, 6:00 pm at City Hall Annex, 2nd floor. The agenda focus is on the development of the Climate Action Plan and a presentation about the new Harvard climate change goals . The agenda for the meeting will be posted on the [Community Development Department website](#).

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **City Council Roundtable** – April 9, 5:30 pm, Sullivan Chamber, City Hall. The City Council will hold a [roundtable](#) on the Climate Change Preparedness & Resilience Plan for Alewife. The meeting should be webcast.
- **Envision Cambridge Workgroups** – *Climate & Environment Working Group*, April 10, 6:00-8:00 pm, 344 Broadway, 4th floor. *Alewife Working Group*, April 12, 6:30-8:30 pm, West Cambridge Youth Center, 680 Huron Ave. *Mobiity Working Group*, April 26, 6:00-8:00 pm, Citywide Senior Center, 806 Mass. Ave. For agendas, see the [Envision Cambridge webpage](#).
- **New England Wholesale Electricity & Climate** – April 11, 5:30-6:30 pm, MIT 66-110, 25 Ames Street. [New England's Wholesale Electricity Markets: Incompatible with Achieving Long-Term Regional Emissions Reduction Goals](#); speaker: Abigail Krich, President, Boreas Renewables. Space is limited.
- **City Council Public Safety Committee** – April 12, 4:00 pm, Sullivan Chamber, City Hall. The committee will hold a [public hearing](#) to review the [report from the Mayor's Special Advisory Committee on Neighborhood Based Resiliency](#).
- **Forum on Innovative Financing for Climate Adaptation** – April 13, 8:00 am-11:30 am, UMass Club, One Beacon Street, Boston. This is a part of the Climate Adaptation Forum series sponsored by the Environmental Business Council of New England and the UMass Boston Sustainable Solutions Lab. For more information and to register, [click here](#).
- **Cambridge Science Festival** – April 13-22. The annual citywide event celebrating science with talks, workshops, performance, art, and more. [For the schedule of events, click here](#).
- **Earth Night at Venture Café** - April 19th from 3-8:30pm, the annual sustainability-themed Earth Night at [Venture Cafe Kendall](#). As has been done for the past four years around Earth Day, Coalesce, Venture Cafe Foundation and a growing network have committed to convening the sustainability community in Boston to provide a dynamic sandbox for changemakers to connect, conspire, and co-create innovative solutions for the healthier world. We believe Boston has the unique potential to model the change we collectively wish to see, so come be a part of it this Earth Day! Opportunities include:
 - You can register to participate in our interactive [Sustainable Connections](#) workshop from 6-7:30pm.
 - Host an [unConference-like Session](#) on your area of expertise/interest between the hours of 3-8:30pm. Take part, propose, and invite your network to join you in the inspiring CIC space. Application deadline is Friday, April 6.
 - [Demo/showcase](#) your solution with an active call to action between 5:30-7:30pm. Application deadline is Friday, April 6.

- Share your insights/skills via [Office Hours](#). Apply here to offer sustainability-related expertise. Application deadline is Friday, March 28th.
- If you wish to provide general or specific support, [volunteers](#) are always welcome.
- Bring your friends and enjoy yourself over locally brewed beverages amongst a swarm of inspiring and mission-aligned movers and shakers (everyone is welcome!)

**We ask that each contribution is interactive with "non-salesy" call to action.

***Don't forget to BYOC(up) and help us keep the evening Zero Waste!

- **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](#).
- **Climate Resilience on the Mystic** – April 26, 6:30-8:00 pm, Somerville High School Library Auditorium, 81 Highland Avenue, Somerville. [Panel discussion about climate change vulnerabilities and resilience opportunities along the Mystic River](#) with the City of Somerville, City of Medford, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, and the Mystic River Watershed Association.
- **Sustainable Communities Conference** - April 27, 8am-4:3pm, 180 Water Street, Hotel1620, Plymouth. The theme this year for the [Massachusetts Sustainable Communities and Campuses Conference](#) is *Making Sustainability History*.
- **BARI Spring Conference** – April 27, Boston University. The Spring conference of the Boston Area Research Initiative focuses on data driven policy and analysis covering climate resilience, housing, mobility, economic opportunity, public safety, and civic engagement. Registration is free. See the [conference website](#) for the agenda and to register.
- **Eastern Climate Preparedness Conference** – April 30-May 2, 2018, Manchester, NH. **NEWS FLASH: The conference is offering travel scholarships up to \$345 to cover the registration fee; funds are limited, apply ASAP at the conference link below.** 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, and care for our urban tree canopy. Their Tree Advocate Group usually meets in the Eastern Bank community room in Brattle Square, but always on the second Tuesday of every month from 6:00-7:30pm. All are welcome and invited to attend! For more information and a listing of other community events, including volunteer opportunities at our prototype urban farm, please visit: [greencambridge.org](#).

NEWS

- **Hubway to Become Blue Bikes** – The Hubway bike share system is expanding and rebranding as Blue Bikes with the sponsorship of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. With the new sponsorship the number of bicycles will increase to 3,000 by end of 2019 from the current 1,800. There will be more than 100 new stations as well. The expansion will start this spring. The bike share system will continue to be publicly owned by the municipalities of Boston, Cambridge, Brookline, and Somerville. The expansion will also allow for upgrades with brand new bikes, new mobile app features, and more valet service at busy stations. [[Cambridge CDD news release, 3/7/18](#)]
- **Sustainability Compact Issues First Annual Report** – The Cambridge Compact for a Sustainable Future has released its [first annual report](#). The Compact is an initiative that fosters collaborative efforts to address climate change and sustainability. The report reviews the implementation of the Compact's three year work plan which involved collaborative actions on renewable energy purchasing, energy storage, and net zero laboratories, and other issues.
- **MIT Says Fusion is Near** – MIT is aiming to bring fusion energy to market within ten years. To do this, MIT is partnering with Commonwealth Fusion Systems which has donated \$30 million to MIT for the effort. MIT's fusion reactor, which they call SPARC, uses high-temperature superconducting materials to make magnets that contain the fusion reaction. The new materials will allow the reactor to be much smaller and more efficient. If successful, commercial fusion reactors have the potential to generate major amounts of carbon-free energy. Unlike fission reactors, fusion doesn't generate large amounts of long-lived radioactive waste. Other privately-funded fusion projects are at work in British Columbia and California. [[WBUR, 3/9/18](#); [MIT News, 3/9/18](#)]
- **MIT Flood Vulnerability Study** – MIT published a report on the first phase of its [Flood Vulnerability Study](#) which comes out of the work of the MIT Climate Resiliency Committee and the Office of Sustainability.
- **Governor Proposes Home Energy Score** – The [Baker Administration has proposed state legislation to create a home energy score](#) that would have to be reported in real estate transactions for 1 to 4 family residential buildings. The home energy score would provide information to owners and buyers about the energy performance of small residential buildings. The hope is the information will spur investments in energy upgrades and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The state has been piloting the energy score in the Springfield area.
- **Governor Files Climate Resilience Funding Bill** – Governor Baker filed an [environmental bond bill](#) (House 4318) to authorize \$1.4 billion in spending on climate change resilience, climate mitigation, open space, tree planting, and other environmental priorities. This bill followed the recent string of nor'easters that impacted the Commonwealth this year and the proposed legislation reflects a focus on climate resilience. The legislation if passed as written would authorize \$125 million for open space, coastal protection, endangered species, and other activities; \$80 million for coastal infrastructure and resilience; \$65 million for dams that could be used for resilience; \$60 million to implement the State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan; \$50 million for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program; and \$25 million for forestry and tree planting. The bill began legislative hearings this week and is expected to be acted upon by July. Typically, the Legislature adds to the Governor's proposal. Bond bills authorize spending, but appropriations must still be approved through the annual budget. [[Governor's Press Release, 3/15/18](#)]
- **State Draft Risk Assessment** – The Commonwealth released the [second draft of the risk assessment](#) findings for the State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan. Comments may be submitted until April 20.
- **MBTA Economic Value** – A Better City issued its report [The Transportation Dividend: Transit Investments and the Massachusetts Economy](#), which put a value of \$11.4 billion in annual regional

benefits, \$7.1 billion of which is time savings. It also enables the avoidance of \$15 billion in infrastructure costs such as highways and parking spaces.

- **Global GHG Emissions Back on the Upswing** – Following three years of flat carbon dioxide emissions, 2017 saw a 1.4 percent increase according to the International Energy Agency (IEA). The IEA stated “The growth in energy-related carbon dioxide emissions in 2017 is a strong warning for global efforts to combat climate change, and demonstrates that current efforts are insufficient to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement.” [[Washington Post, 3/21/18](#)]

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **Jobs** – [Climate Policy Analyst](#), MA Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs. [Sustainability Coordinator](#), Boston Properties. [Chief Resilience Officer](#), City of Boston. [Climate Resilience Program Assistant](#), Conservation Law Foundation. [Project Manager, Boston Waterfront Initiative](#), The Trustees of Reservations.
- **Commercial Solar Hub** – MassCEC launched a [Commercial Solar Hub](#) website to provide resources on solar energy installations on businesses, manufacturing facilities, and apartment and condo buildings.
- **Wood Is Not Carbon Neutral** – [Not carbon neutral: Assessing the net emissions impact of residues burned for bioenergy](#) is an open access article published in Environmental Research Letters.
- **Healthy Buildings** – [Healthy Buildings](#) is an excellent resource from the Harvard School of Public Health which presents information on nine foundations of a healthy building.
- **Arctic Warming & Northeast Winters** – [New research published in Nature Communications](#) finds that the warmer the Arctic, the more likely the Northeast will see blizzards and more extreme cold weather. [[Inside Climate News, 3/13/18](#)]
- **Cities May Undercount Emissions** – [Consumption-based GHG Emissions of C40 Cities](#) is a new analysis that suggests that cities emit 60% more GHG emissions related to consumption of goods and services than they count under accepted inventory methodologies. [[National Geographic, 5/6/18](#)]
- **High Tide Flooding** – [Patterns and Projections of High Tide Flooding Along the U.S. Coastline Using a Common Impact Threshold](#) is a new report from NOAA on how sea level rise will drive increased frequency of flooding at high tides.
- **Residential Solar+Storage Qualifies for Federal Tax Credit** – The [IRS recently ruled](#) that residential solar plus storage retrofit installations can qualify for the federal Investment Tax Credit. The 30 percent tax credit can be used if solar is being used to charge the storage system 100%. [[Greentech Media, 3/15/18](#)]
- **State of Restaurant Sustainability** – The National Restaurant Association issued a report on [The State of Restaurant Sustainability 2018](#) based on a national survey of 500 restaurants.
- **Urban Heat Island Effect Depends on City Layout** – Interesting research out of MIT that finds the urban heat island effect depends on how a city is laid out. [[MIT News, 2/22/18](#)]
- **Backyard Soils & Carbon** – [Research published in Ecological Applications](#), finds that urban soils can store significant amounts of carbon. This research ran somewhat contrary to previous [research from Boston University](#) that found urban soils release surprising amounts of carbon. [[New York Times, 3/6/18](#)]
- **Negative Emissions** – Nice [overview from World Wildlife Fund](#) on the need for and approaches to negative emissions.
- **Heart Attacks Often Follow Heat Spikes** – Findings presented at the American College of Cardiology say there are significant increases in heart attacks following dramatic changes in outdoor temperature. [[Eureka Alert, 3/1/18](#)]

- **McDonalds Adopts Science-based Targets** – McDonald's, the world's largest purchaser of beef, announced science-based targets to reduce its carbon footprint by 36% compared to 2015 levels by 2030. It would also cut its emissions intensity by 31%. [[Fast Company, 3/20/18](#)]
- **Portfolio Energy Optimization** – [Capturing Value Through Portfolio Energy Optimization](#) is a new report from the Rocky Mountain Institute that says real estate investors and owners can capture \$290 billion with a scalable approach to building energy upgrades compared to a building-by-building approach.
- **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.