

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

May 2018

MEETING: The Climate Protection Action Committee will meet in on Thursday, May 10, 6:00 pm at City Hall Annex, 2nd floor. The agenda focus is on the Low Carbon Energy Supply Study and committee work planning. The agenda for the meeting will be posted on the [Community Development Department website](#).

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **Climate Gentrification: Rethinking Vulnerability and Resilience** – May 8, 1:00-2:00 pm, Harvard Global Health Institute, 42 Church Street. Talk by Jesse Keenan, lecturer at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. Event is free but [registration is required](#).
- **Multi-Family Passive House Buildings** – May 8, 5:00-6:00 pm, Building 66, Room 110, 25 Ames Street, MIT. Katrin Klingenberg, executive director, Passive House Institute US will discuss case studies on low and mid-rise multifamily buildings that meet the Passive House standards. [Registration encouraged](#).
- **Drawdown** – May 14, 7:00-9:00 pm, [Cambridge Friends Meeting](#), 5 Longfellow Park. Film and panel discussion. Drawdown is a plan by Paul Hawken on addressing climate change with existing solutions. The panelists are Ben Hellerstein, Environment Massachusetts; Cammy Peterson, MAPC; Nathan Phillips, Boston University.
- **Envision Cambridge Meetings** – [Alewife Working Group](#), May 10, 6:30-8:30 pm, West Cambridge Youth Center. [Alewife Public Meeting](#), May 16, 6:30-8:30 pm, Tobin School Cafeteria, 197 Vassal Lane. [Climate & Environment Working Group](#), May 22, 6:00-8:00 pm, 344 Broadway, 4th floor meeting room. [Envision Cambridge Advisory Committee](#), May 23, 6:00-8:00 pm, Citywide Senior Center, 806 Mass. Avenue.
- **How Can Trees Mitigate Climate Change** – May 22, 6:00-8:00 pm, The Nature Conservancy, 99 Bedford Street, Suite 5, Boston. Panel: Lisa Rosen, The Gold Standard; Bill Moomaw, Tufts University; Steve Long, TNC; Laura Marx, TNC. Event is free, [register here](#).
- **Design World Views on Adaptation & Resilience** – June 8, 8:00-11:30 am, UMass Club, One Beacon Street, Boston. Presentations on climate resilience about Hafen City, Hamburg, Germany; Copenhagen Cloudburst Master Plan; and rapid fire panel of local projects. For more information and to register, [click here](#). Part of the Climate Adaptation Forum series sponsored by the UMass Boston Sustainable Solutions Lab and the Environmental Business Council of New England.
- **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

- **Low Carbon Energy Supply Study** – The City of Cambridge released its [Low Carbon Energy Supply Study](#), which is a key element of the Cambridge Net Zero Action Plan. The study assesses option for how Cambridge can transition from its fossil-fuel based energy supply to a low- or zero-carbon sources by 2050. The study emphasizes the importance of electrifying building energy systems coupled with district energy and the need to collaborate regionally.
- **Harvard 2017 Sustainability Report** – Harvard issued its [2017 Sustainability Report](#) on progress toward its goals, standards, and commitments on objectives covering emissions and energy, health and well-being, nature and ecosystems, campus operations, and culture change and community. Highlights include net energy use is down 4% from 2006 levels taking growth into account; net GHG emissions reduction of 30% from 2006 levels; 1.5 megawatts of on-site solar energy; 129 LEED certified buildings; development of new Sustainable IT Standards; relocation of the Allston campus district energy system from a planned basement location to aboveground in reponse to a climate vulnerability assessment; trash per capita reduced by 44% since 2006; 13 vegetated green roofs; and 60% of campus landscaped areas are managed organically.
- **Boston Properties New Sustainability Goals** – Boston Properties, which is one of the largest public owners and developers of office buildings in the US, including a significant presence in Cambridge, announced new sustainability goals for 2025. The company met its 2020 goals three years early reducing its energy use intensity by 23%, water use intensity by 26%, and greenhouse gas emissions intensity by 38% compared to a 2008 base year according to its [2017 Sustainability Report](#). Intensity goals relate to the amount per square foot of building space. The new goals for 2025 compared to a 2008 baseline year are to reduce energy use intensity by 32%, GHG intensity by 45%, and water use intensity by 30%. Boston Properties reports through the [GRESB](#) global environmental sustainability, responsibility, and governance platform for the real estate industry.

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **Jobs** – [Director of Community Planning](#), Cambridge Community Development Department. [Energy & Sustainability Intern](#), Cambridge Public Works Department. [Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Intern](#), Cambridge Community Development Department. [Analytical Services Manager](#) & [Planning & GIS Analyst II](#), Metropolitan Area Planning Council. [Project Manager, Boston Waterfront Initiative](#), The Trustees of Reservations.
- **Strategic Electrification** – The Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership has produced two reports on strategic electrification, which will be necessary to achieve net zero emissions. The two reports are [Northeastern Regional Assessment of Strategic Electrification](#) and [Action Plan to Accelerate Strategic Electrification in the Northeast](#).
- **Effects of Ride Hailing Services** – [The Effects of Ride Hailing Services on Travel and Associated Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#) is a white paper from the National Center for Sustainable Transportation.

- **Alsop Case Climate Tutorials** – In the lawsuit brought by San Francisco, Oakland, and other local governments against BP, Chevron, ExxonMobil, Shell, and ConocoPhillips for current and future damages from climate change, Judge William Alsop of the US District Court for the Northern District of California asked for the plaintiffs and defendants to present the history of climate change and the best available science in a 5 hour tutorial. The plaintiffs presentations were posted on [Real Climate](#).
- **Cambridge Climate Podcasts** – Two podcasts about climate change action in Cambridge have been posted by [Backyard Media](#) and [Science in the News Harvard](#).
- **NYC Climate Resiliency Design Guidelines** – New York City issued an updated version of its [Climate Resiliency Design Guidelines](#).
- **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 jboulduc@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.