

# Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

## CPAC BULLETIN

### September 2014

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**MEETING:** The next meeting of the Climate Protection Action Committee is scheduled for September 11, 6:00 pm, Citywide Senior Center, 806 Massachusetts Avenue in the ballroom. Note this is a different location than the regular meeting place. The meeting is open to the public. The [agenda](#) will be posted on the Community Development Department website. The focus of the meeting this month will be a discussion with the City Manager and department heads about climate protection initiatives.

#### EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **Earthwatch Trees** – September 6 & October 11. The Earthwatch Institute is working with the Cambridge Public Works Department Urban Forestry Program to collect data on the City's street trees to help protect the urban forest. Volunteers will be trained in techniques for identifying species, measuring and observing individual trees, and uploading data via mobile apps. Volunteers will work in groups to collect data on health, growth patterns, and the impact on buildings and streets of individual trees. This is a free one-day expedition hosted by a resident Earthwatch scientist. Use the promo code **TREES** upon registration and the \$15 registration fee is entirely waived. You can find more information about the [Urban Forest Program](#) and sign up by clicking the link.
- **Climate Realism** – September 15, 12:00 to 1:30 pm, Bell Hall, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Belfer Building, Harvard Kennedy School of Government. [Harvard seminar](#) with Armond Cohen, Executive Director, Clean Air Task Force.
- **People's Climate March** – September 21, New York City. A massive climate march is being organized to coincide with the [United Nations Climate Change Summit](#). The march will begin at 11:30 am at Columbus Circle in New York City. [Buses from the Boston area are available to transport participants.](#) Over 1,000 organizations are partners in the event. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Greenport Forum** – September 16, 7:00 pm, Cambridgeport Baptist Church (at Magazine & Putnam). *Evacuation Routes or Band-aids*, a conversation with City Councillor Craig Kelly and former City Councillor Sam Seidel.
- **Net Zero Task Force Meeting** – September 17, 5:00 to 9:00 pm, Cambridge College, 1000 Massachusetts Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room. This is a task force workshop meeting.
- **Net Zero Task Force Public Forum** – September 23, 6:00 to 8:30 pm, location to be announced. At the forum, the Net Zero Task Force's preliminary ideas will be presented to be followed by a panel of guest experts providing responses and public comment. For more information, [visit the task force webpage](#).
- **Park(ing) Day** – September 19, citywide. Cambridge is participating in its third annual Park(ing) Day celebration. 46 metered parking spaces will be turned into temporary public spaces to call attention to the need for urban open space and the quality of urban life.
- **Cambridge Repair Café** – September 27, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Cambridge Community Center, 5 Callender St. What to do with a **chair** when a leg is loose? With a toaster that no longer works? Or a sweater with moth holes? Toss it? No way! You can repair it at Repair Café! Clothes, Electrical Appliances, Toys, Bicycles, Musical Instruments, Jewelry, Furniture, etc. Repair things together, receive expert advice, meet each other and be inspired. Free & open to the public. For more info, [visit the project's Facebook page](#).

- **HEET Methane Forum** – September 30, 6:00 to 8:00 pm, St. James Church, 1991 Mass. Ave., Cambridge. Natural gas leaks from old pipes under our communities cost taxpayers millions of dollars annually, are public health hazards, and are contributing to the climate crisis. Come out and learn more at an engaging event featuring community experts including Joel Wool from Clean Water Action, Bob Ackley community volunteer who maps leaking pipes, and Ashka Naik from HEET who will detail their local methane mapping project, [Squeaky Leak](#), in Cambridge and Somerville.
- **Urban Implications of Designing with Water** – October 1, 7:30 to 9:30 am, Wilmer Hale, 6 State Street, Boston. A forum sponsored by the Boston Chapter of the Urban Land Institute to present the findings of four charrette teams that explored possible options for sites in the Greater Boston area to cope with flooding associated with sea level rise. The four sites were areas in Boston's Innovation District, Back Bay, Revere, and the Cambridge's Alewife Quadrangle. Attendees will receive a copy of the charrette report. [To register, click here](#). Fees apply.
- **Massachusetts Green Career Conference** – October 1, Holiday Inn, Marlborough. [To register, click here](#).
- **Boston Area Sustainability Group** – October 7, 6:00 to 9:00 pm, Venture Café, One Broadway, 5<sup>th</sup> floor. The topic is *Sustainability and Innovation*, with speakers Asheen Phansey, Dassault Systems; Eric Hudson, Preserve; Helen Sahi, Avery Dennison; and Rakhshita Dhar, MassBio. For more information and to register, [click here](#).
- **Anatomy of a Sustainable Real Estate Project Course** – Starts October 8, Suffolk University. A professional development course over six sessions on how to incorporate sustainability into real estate projects and property management. Registration fees apply. [For more information, click here](#).
- **Net Zero Northeast** – October 9, Montpelier, VT. The region's first technical summit on net zero construction. Presented by Efficiency Vermont and the New Buildings Institute. More details to come. For questions, contact Alison Hollingsworth, [ahollingsworth@veic.org](mailto:ahollingsworth@veic.org) or [click here](#).
- **DisruptCRE** – October 16, District Hall, Boston. A commercial real estate/technology event designed to connect disruptive ideas with capital and commercial real estate professionals. Topics include the science of buildings, sponsored by USGBC MA. To register, [click here](#). Registration fees apply.
- **Community Based Social Marketing Workshops** – November 17-20, Tufts University, Medford. Dr. Doug McKenzie-Mohr is presenting an introductory and an advanced workshop on community based social marketing to foster sustainable behavior. For more information and to register, [click here](#). Group rates are available.
- **Restoring Ecosystems to Reverse Global Warming** – November 21-23, Tufts University, Medford. A conference on soil carbon management presented by Biodiversity for a Livable Climate. For more information and to register, [click here](#). Fees apply.
- **Friends of Alewife Reservation Walks** - Wildlife walks sponsored by [FAR](#) impart the history and background to the DCR's Alewife Reservation, a rare urban wild in Cambridge. The walks are led by a professional wildlife assessor, Dave Brown. Tours last 2 hours. To prepare for the tour, or to get a "Virtual Tour", [click here](#).
- **Walk/Ride Day Corporate Challenge** – Annual workplace competition in which organizations throughout Cambridge and surrounding cities and towns compete one day each month from April through October to have staff check in their commute online and consider healthier and more environmentally friendly choices (transit, bicycle, walk, etc.) Data show significant green shifts among participants on Walk/Ride Days and other days throughout the month. Promoted by Green Streets Initiative, a Cambridge-based grassroots group. [Register your company for the Challenge here](#).
- **350.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. All meetings are held at First Church Cambridge, 11 Garden

Street, Cambridge, MA and begin at 6PM for potluck and networking, with the general meeting and working groups at 7PM. More info at [www.350MA.org](http://www.350MA.org).

- **Green Cambridge** - Green Cambridge is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization and a founding chapter of the Massachusetts Climate Action Network (MCAN). Green Cambridge works to create a more sustainable Cambridge, and to protect the environment for the health and safety of all. Green Cambridge meets monthly at the Eastern Bank community room in Harvard Square, usually on the first Thursday of every month at 6:30pm. All are welcome and invited to attend! For more information and a listing of community events, please visit: <http://www.greencambridge.org/>.

## NEWS

- **Cambridge #10 Biking City** – In it's October issue, *Bicycling Magazine* rates Cambridge number 10 in it's ranking of best bicycling cities. The rankings are based on Census data, amount of bike lanes, city expenditures on cycling, and interviews with residents. New York City was rated number one. [[USA Today, 9/3/14](#)]
- **Renewable Thermal Law Passes** – At the end of the latest session, the [Massachusetts Legislature approved SB1970](#), a bill to create incentives for heating and cooling with renewable fuels. The law makes renewable fuel technologies eligible for Alternative Energy Credits which will provide financial incentives for technologies such as solar hot water, ground source heat pumps, bio-gas, and biomass when meeting thermal energy needs.
- **Mapdwell Solar Tool Upgrades** – Look for the upgraded version of the Cambridge Solar Tool by Mapdwell which is expected to be launched on September 9. The new version will include all of the current functionality, but improve the accuracy in the display of the solar radiation data, provide more flexibility in designing rooftop PV systems, and provide reports in PDF format. The tool will also be viewable in Spanish as well as English. Mapdwell, which grew out of work at the MIT Sustainable Design Lab and Modern Design Studio, was first launched in Cambridge and has expanded to Wellfleet, MA; Washington, DC; and Washington County, OR and will be coming to Lo Barnechea and Vitacura, Chile and Boston soon. The Mapdwell solar tool has been called the most accurate solar energy tool in the U.S. by *Smithsonian Magazine*. The map also shows existing solar PV systems. Cambridge Energy Alliance intern Jesse Schuh has been working to track down information and update the map. Owners of systems can add their PV installation to the map by using the "Share Your PV System" function located in the upper right control box. There are approximately 1.4 megawatts of installed solar PV capacity in Cambridge.

## RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **Job** – Kleinfelder, Climate Project Manager, [click here](#).
- **Net Zero Policy Best Practices** – The [Policy Best Practices Report](#) was prepared for the Cambridge Getting to Net Zero Task Force.
- **Designing with Water** – [Designing with Water](#) is the Boston Harbor Association's new report with 12 case studies of innovative designs and strategies gathered from around the world on urban solutions to sea level rise.
- **City Green Building Adoption** - CB Richard Ellis released its [National Green Building Adoption Index](#) for 2014, which ranks US cities in terms of the implementation of green building policies in the 30 largest commercial office markets. The rankings are based on the number of buildings and square feet of buildings that have achieved LEED or Energy Star designations. Minneapolis/St. Paul ranked number one.

- **NCA Teacher Resources** – [Resource guides](#) have been produced to help teachers use the National Climate Assessment.
- **Top Clean Tech Cities & States** – The [U.S. Clean Tech Leadership Index](#) ranks states and metropolitan areas as clean tech marketplaces on basis of various indicators including numbers of green buildings, EV charging stations, registered hybrid vehicles, clean electricity, and the clean tech and innovation workforce. Metro Boston ranked number six.
- **Sierra Club Coolest Schools** – The [Sierra Club ranked the greenest universities and colleges](#). Harvard was ranked at number 19.
- **Urban Heat Island Mitigation** – An [interesting research article](#) on the impact of green roofs on the urban heat island effect in *Environmental Research Letters*. [[Environmental Research Web](#)]
- **Global Community Emissions Protocol** – Version 2 of the Global Protocol for Community-scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions is available for comment. The GPC aims to harmonize community emissions protocols. It is a collaboration of ICLEI, C40, World Bank, and the World Resources Institute. To see the proposed protocol, [click here](#).
- **RainReady** – A [website](#) by Chicago’s Center for Neighborhood Technology on how to deal with flooding and drought at different levels.
- **Corporate Sustainability** – An [interesting article in The Economist](#) about the state of corporate sustainability, titled *A New Green Wave: A few pioneering businesses are developing “sustainability policies” worthy of the name*.
- **Sydney Green Roof & Wall Policy** – [Sydney Australia has a new policy and strategy](#), plus related technical documents, on green roofs and walls which is part of the Sustainable Sydney 2030 plan. [[From Sourceable](#)]
- **Cambridge Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment** – The City is working on preparing a vulnerability assessment that will serve as the foundation for a climate change preparedness plan that will follow. The [project webpage](#) provides background information and documents from meetings. 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 Modern Development Studio 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.
- **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!
- **Check Out Watt Meters at the Library** – Cambridge residents can borrow a “kill-a-watt” meter from the Main Public Library to measure how much electricity their home appliances and devices use. The meters come with a guide on how to use them and information on how to save energy. The meter kits and guide were developed by the [Sprouts of Hope](#) group based at the King Open School.
- **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.

- **NSTAR Green** – Residential and small business electric customers of NSTAR can opt to purchase renewable electricity generated by wind energy farms. To sign up for the service, visit the [NSTAR website](#).
  - **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.
  - **Sustainable Business Leader Program** - SBLP is a comprehensive certification program that supports local businesses in improving their environmental business practices and reducing their carbon footprint. For more information please visit the [SBLP website](#) or email to [katrina@sbnboston.org](mailto:katrina@sbnboston.org).
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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.