

# Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

## CPAC BULLETIN

### December 2014

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**MEETING:** The next meeting of the Climate Protection Action Committee is scheduled for December 11, 6:00 pm, City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room. 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 working session for the committee.

#### EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **Net Zero Task Force** – December 10, 6:00 pm, Citywide Senior Center, 806 Mass. Ave. The task force is working on recommendations. [For more information, click here.](#)
- **Design for Resilience** – December 10 to February 6, 2015, McCormick Gallery, Boston Architectural College, 320 Newbury Street, Boston. The Design for Resilience exhibition will feature the designs proposed for the Rebuild by Design competition sponsored by the President Obama’s Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force. For more information, [click here.](#)
- **Car-sharing Discussions** - January 22, 7:00 pm, LBJ Apartments community room, 150 Erie Street. The City of Cambridge is collecting feedback from Cambridge residents about carsharing services, such as Zipcar and Enterprise Carshare. Now that carsharing has become a part of the transportation landscape, the City is considering ways to formalize it in the zoning regulations and gather input from the community to create some recommendations for how to move forward. This meeting is the last in a series of neighborhood meetings. For more information, contact Stephanie Groll, [sgroll@cambridgema.gov](mailto:sgroll@cambridgema.gov) or 617-349-4673.
- **BASG** – January 6, 6:00 to 9:00 pm, Venture Café, One Broadway, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor. The topic for this meeting of the Boston Area Sustainability Group is “Investing in Sustainability”. The speakers are Timothy Smith, Walden Asset Management; Susan Musinsky, Social Innovation Forum/Root Cause; John Chaimanis, Kendall Sustainable Infrastructure; and Robert Fernandez, Breckinridge Capital Advisors. To register, [click here.](#)
- **BuildingEnergy 15** – March 3 – 5, 2015, Seaport World Trade Center, Boston. This is the biggest regional green building conference in the New England; sponsored by the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA). To see the program and to register, [click 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. Free wildlife and history educational tours, clean ups and conservation initiatives for the silver maple forest. "Virtual" Tour of the Reservation: [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 Conversations Report** – The Community Development Department issued a final report on the [Cambridge Conversations: Strategic Recommendations for a Citywide Plan](#). The report was informed by comments and feedback gathered last summer. It will be used to inform the preparation of a request for proposals and selection of a consultant team to work with the City on the citywide plan.
- **Cambridge Reduces Municipal Energy Use** – The City of Cambridge is among the first seven municipalities in the Commonwealth to achieve a 20 percent municipal energy use reduction under the Massachusetts Green Communities program. The City reduced its energy use in municipal buildings, street and park lights, vehicles, and water/sewer systems by 19.3% between fiscal years 2008 and 2013, going from 304,456 million BTUs to 245,645 million BTUs. The comparison does not include buildings added after 2008. Cambridge was among the first communities to be designated under the Commonwealth's Green Communities Program in 2010. The other six communities that reduce their municipal energy use are Arlington, Belchertown, Natick, Palmer, Springfield, and Sutton. [[Governor's Press Release, 12/3/14](#)]
- **Building Energy Use Disclosure Notices Go Out** – The Community Development Department has sent notification letters to property owners who will be required to report on their 2014 building energy use. The [Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance \(BEUDO\)](#) was enacted by the Cambridge City Council on July 28, 2014. By May 1, 2015, the ordinance requires non-residential properties that singly or together contain buildings with 50,000 square feet or more and residential properties (condominiums and apartments) that singly or together contain 50 or more units to report their energy and water use through the Energy Star Portfolio Manager platform. Municipal buildings that are 10,000 square feet or larger will report 2013 energy use by the end of this year and report on 2014 energy use next May. In 2016, non-residential properties that singly or together contain buildings with 25,000 to 50,000 square feet must start reporting. This is an annual requirement. Property owners are required to comply with the ordinance whether or not a notice has been received. Beginning in the second year of reporting, the data for private buildings will be made available to the public. The intention of the ordinance is to provide energy performance data to inform real estate decisions, encourage improvements in energy performance, and provide the City and others with useful data on which to base plans and policies. Inquiries about the ordinance can be emailed to [buildingenergy@cambridgema.gov](mailto:buildingenergy@cambridgema.gov). The City will be providing technical assistance and NSTAR is providing aggregated building energy use data through its [energy data portal](#).
- **Boston Issues Draft Climate Action Plan** – The City of Boston has issued a draft Climate Action Plan for public comment. The draft plan would replace Boston's previous plan. For more information about the draft plan, [see the Boston climate webpage](#).
- **Squeaky Leak Report** – HEET issued its report on leaking underground natural gas lines in Cambridge and Somerville, following on an earlier study of Boston's gas lines performed by Nathan Phillips at Boston

University. For Cambridge, the Squeaky Leak Report found 2.1 leaks per linear mile of gas line (5.2 in Somerville, 4.3 in Boston); 305 leaks or 45% less than Boston compared on a proportional basis; 150 to 200 trees damaged or killed due to gas leaks into soil; West Cambridge had more leaks than the rest of the city combined; leaks cost Cambridge ratepayers \$40 per gas-customer household annually. For more details, [see the report here](#). It was speculated that the lower incidence of leaks in Cambridge could be due to NSTAR being more active in Cambridge on line maintenance or to the Public Works' 5-year street reconstruction plan that gives utilities notice and incentive to repair and upgrade lines when streets are opened.

## RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **President's Task Force** – The White House released the [Recommendations to the President](#) by the President's State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience.
- **Restoring Ecosystems Presentations** – Video and slides from presentations made at the Restoring Ecosystems to Reverse Global Warming Conference held on November 21 at Tufts University are [available online by clicking here](#).
- **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 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!
- **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.