

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

January 2015 (Early Edition)

MEETING: The next meeting of the Climate Protection Action Committee is scheduled for January 8, 6:00 pm, City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway, 2nd 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 review of the Getting to Net Zero Task Force draft recommendations.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **Design for Resilience** – Until 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](#).
- **BASG** – January 6, 6:00 to 9:00 pm, Venture Café, One Broadway, 5th 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](#).
- **Net Zero Task Force** – 11:30 am – 1:30 pm, 344 Broadway, second floor. A working meeting of the Getting to Net Zero Task Force.
- **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 or 617-349-4673.
- **MIT Energy Conference** – February 27-28, Boston. This will be the 10th anniversary of the conference. [For more information, 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](#).
- **National Adaptation Forum** – May 12-14, 2015, St. Louis. This is the second national meeting on climate change adaptation organized by a group of public and private sector professionals. [For more information, 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](#).

- **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. 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 6:30 PM. More info at 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

- **Checkout Bag Ordinance** – A proposed ordinance to ban plastic carryout bags was discussed at the December 15th City Council meeting. The City Manager [submitted the ordinance with amendments](#) that were developed after an April 2014 Ordinance Committee hearing. The revised proposal requires that if retail establishments provide check out bags, they must be made of recycled paper or compostable plastic, or be reusable. Establishments must charge 10-cents for check out bags. The Climate Protection Action Committee recommended previously that a fee be placed on check out bags alongside a ban on plastic bags to discourage a shift to paper, which tends to have higher greenhouse gas impacts. The Council referred the matter to a public hearing before the Ordinance Committee, which will be held in February, with an expectation that the City Council will vote on the ordinance soon after.
- **Urban Heat Island Contest** – The Community Development Department is conducting a contest on the MIT Climate CoLab platform to crowdsource ideas to mitigate the urban heat island in Cambridge. Learn about the City of Cambridge Climate CoLab Contest at our [taped Google Hangout](#). We're seeking creative and effective ideas that relate to Cambridge specifically! Feel free to submit your own proposal, add comments to existing proposals, or simply support existing proposals. The contest runs from now through February 6th, 2015. If you submit one of the winning ideas, you'll be able to present it before government officials, business executives, NGO leaders and scientists who can help move proposals toward implementation, as well as share it at an MIT conference, where a \$10,000 Grand Prize will be awarded. Even if you don't have new ideas yourself, you can help improve other people's ideas and support the ones you find most promising. Check out the website today and support existing proposals! Learn more about our contest [here](#).

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **City Survey** – The 2014 City of Cambridge Citizen Telephone Survey results are [available here](#). Climate change was a survey topic for the first time. In response to the question *What do you think is the single most important issue facing the City of Cambridge today – the one that affects you and your family the most?*, 2% said climate change. The top issue was affordable housing at 18%, with education and traffic/bikes second at 10%.
- **Salem Adaptation Report** – The City of Salem has issued a [draft climate change vulnerability assessment and action plan](#).
- **Chicago Energy Benchmarking Report** - The City of Chicago issued its [first report](#) under its recently approved building energy benchmarking law.
- **LES Ready** – A group of community development organizations on the Lower East Side of New York City published a report, [Getting LES Ready: Learning from Hurricane Sandy to Create a Community-Based Disaster Plan for the Future](#).
- **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 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!
 - **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.
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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 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 webpa