

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

September 2015

MEETING: The next meeting of the Climate Protection Action Committee is scheduled for September 10, 6:00 pm, City Hall, 795 Mass. Ave., Sullivan Chamber (note this is a change from the usual meeting location). The September meeting will be CPAC's annual meeting with the City Manager and departments. The agenda for the meeting will be posted on the [Community Development Department website](#).

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **Developing Resiliency** – September 11, 11:45 am to 1:30 PM, Brown Rudnick, One Financial Center, Boston. The Boston Chapter of the Urban Land Institute will present two new reports. One is titled *Developing Resilience: Living with Water Strategies for Greater Boston*, which is a follow up to *The Urban Implications of Living with Water* report released last year. The other is *Advancing Resiliency in East Boston*, which is a technical assistance panel report prepared in partnership with the Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH) and the Kresge Foundation. This event is a ULI Boston member lunch, but is open to non-members. Registration fees apply. [Click here to register](#).
- **Net Zero Police HQ in Cincinnati** – September 15, 8:30 to 10:00 am, 50 Milk Street, 15th floor, Aristotle Conference Room, Boston. Talk by Chad Edwards and Shawn Hesse of Emersion Design about the District 3 Police Headquarters project in Cincinnati, which will be the city's first net zero and LEED Platinum building. The project is publicly funded and a fixed-price design-build project that has come in on budget. Sponsored by the USGBC Massachusetts Chapter. Free for members; fee for non-members. [Register by clicking here](#).
- **Climate Ride Northeast** – September 17-21. This event raises funds for climate action organizations, raises awareness of climate change, and promotes sustainable lifestyles. The Northeast bicycle ride follows a 320 mile route from Bar Harbor, Maine to Boston. Riders can choose from among more than 100 beneficiaries to support. [For more information, click here](#).
- **Park(ing) Day** – September 18 is Park(ing) Day for 2015. Over 60 parking spaces around Cambridge will be turned into something else. For the list of locations that you can visit, [see the Park\(ing\) Day webpage](#).
- **MA Green Careers Conference** – October 1, Marlborough. This is an annual conference about environmental sustainability and work careers. It's an opportunity to network with potential employers and like-minded people. For more information and to register, [click here](#).
- **ACCO Climate Fundamentals Workshop** – October 5-6, Boston University. Workshop on climate science, climate hazard identification and vulnerability assessment, leveraging climate data and tools, and fundamentals of the energy, water, food nexus. Instructors include Christine Baglin, Project Performance Co.; Kelly Burks-Copes, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and Rawlings Miller, ICF International. Presented by the Association of Climate Change Officers. Workshop is part of a series that contributes to a Climate Governance Certificate. Fees apply. The registration deadline is September 21. For more information and to register, [click here](#). As a reader of the CPAC Bulletin, **you can obtain a 20% discount** by using the following promo code: **CFA---Discount---Cambridge**.

- **Four Global Health Threats, Four Global Health Opportunities** – October 5, 9:00 am to 1:30 pm, Joseph B. Martin Conference Center, 77 Avenue Louis Pasteur, Boston. The event will address social and environmental threats and the effect of natural disasters in humanitarian crises. To RSVP, [see the event webpage](#). This is part of Hubweek.
- **Solve** – October 5-8, MIT. The conference will convene technologists, philanthropists, business leaders, policy makers, and change agents to examine and address problems around the four themes of learn, cure, fuel, and make. The fuel theme includes climate change. This conference runs in tandem with the Crowds and Climate Conference. For more information and to register, [click here](#).
- **Crowds & Climate Conference** – October 6, MIT. This is the annual conference sponsored by the MIT Climate CoLab. Climate CoLab contest winners will present their ideas on how to tackle specific climate change problems, including from the Cambridge contest on mitigating the local urban heat islands. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Managing the Impact of Climate Change** – October 7, 4:00 to 6:00 pm, Sanders Theatre, Harvard. The event is free, but you will need a ticket; [sign up on the website](#) to be notified when tickets are available. This part of Hubweek.
- **Biodiversity for a Livable Climate** – October 16, Tufts University. This year's theme is "restoring water cycles to reverse global warming". Sponsored by Biodiversity for a Livable Climate. For more information and to register, [click here](#).
- **Rising Seas Summit** – November 3-5, Boston Sheraton Hotel. This is an annual professional conference convening national and local government, industry, academia, and environmental NGOs to highlight the interrelationships between sea level rise, climate change and extreme events. One of the keynote speakers will be renowned climate scientist Michael Mann. Sponsored by the Association of Climate Change Officers. For more information and to register, [click here](#).
- **Local Solutions Conference** – April 4-6, 2016, Baltimore. This is the [Eastern Regional Climate Preparedness Conference](#) hosted by Antioch University and the EPA. Details will be forthcoming.
- **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 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

- **Citywide Plan Consultant Selected** – Utile Architecture & Planning has been selected as the lead consultant for the Citywide Plan, which will kick off this year. Utile will lead an interdisciplinary team. [[Cambridge CDD news release, 8/21/15](#)]
- **State Climatologist Office Created** – This year's state budget establishes the Office of the State Climatologist with \$200,000 of funding. The Legislature overrode Governor Baker's veto to bring this initiative to fruition. It was one of the elements of Governor Patrick's climate change adaptation strategy. Massachusetts is one of only three states in the U.S. not to have a state climatologist. The State Climatologist will advise state and local government about the Commonwealth's climate and its implications for the economy, natural resources, and population. [[MassLand E-News, 8/20/15](#)]
- **Mapdwell Solar System Expands to New York City and San Francisco** – The Mapdwell Solar System platform, which first developed as an interactive solar tool for Cambridge, has expanded to New York City and San Francisco. Mapdwell is the most accurate rooftop solar modeling tool available. It enables users to estimate the amount of solar photovoltaic potential a roof can host taking into account weather, building orientation, roof pitch, shading, and other factors. The tool also provides a detailed cost estimate taking incentives into account and other outputs such as environmental benefits and comparisons to other investment options. In addition to modeling of individual rooftops, the platform also provides aggregated results. The New York City version found that over 1 million buildings in the city have over 11 gigawatts of solar energy potential and could generate more than 13 million megawatt-hours of electricity annually. The Mapdwell tool grew out of research at the MIT Sustainable Design Lab. In addition to the two new cities, the Mapdwell platform is available in Boston and Orleans, Massachusetts; Washington County, Oregon; Washington, DC; Boulder, Colorado; and Vitacura and Lo Barnechea, Chile. [Mapdwell news release, [Architect Magazine, 8/25/15](#)]

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **Job: Associate Energy Planner** – The City of Cambridge is seeking candidates for an Associate Planner position in the Community Development Department, who will work on implementing key elements of the Cambridge Net Zero Action Plan. [For details, see the job announcement](#). The application deadline is September 29.
- **Understanding Energy Use in Cities** – US Department of Energy [Cities Leading Through Energy Analysis & Planning \(Cities-LEAP\) project](#) provides a tool for a sample of 20 large cities, including Boston, to understand building energy use to inform strategy and planning.
- **FEMA and Climate Change** – Interesting [article from the New England Center for Investigative Reporting](#) about how FEMA continues to treat climate as being static in their emergency response and planning.
- **How Cities Can Beat the Heat** – [How Cities Can Beat the Heat](#) is an article in *Nature* about how cities are trying to address vulnerabilities to rising temperatures, but also how some actions may be getting ahead of the science.
- **U.S. Heat Exposure Could Quadruple** – According to the National Center for Atmospheric Research, the exposure of the U.S. population to extreme heat could quadruple by mid-century. The study looked at the number of days the population would be exposed to 95 degrees or higher. The analysis doesn't seem to taken humidity into account and it doesn't assess whether those exposed are vulnerable to health effects. [[NCAR news release, 5/18/15](#)]
- **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 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.