

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

December 2015

MEETING: The next meeting of the Climate Protection Action Committee is scheduled for December 10, 6:00 pm, City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway. The meeting will focus on a review of the CCVA storm surge modeling and the 2016 CPAC workplan. The agenda for the meeting will be posted on the [Community Development Department website](#).

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **Organizational Sustainability Course** – Bob Pojasek is teaching this online continuing education course focused on developing organizational sustainability in a community setting. [Fundamentals of Organizational Sustainability](#) will be offered for the 13th year as a web conferenced action-learning course starting in January. Organizational sustainability is the new unambiguous sustainability in organizations that you belong to. Learn more about the course in this [YouTube presentation](#).
- **Glocal Challenge Final** – December 10, EF Education First Headquarters, Two Education Circle, Cambridge. The student exhibition starts at 5:30 and the the final event starts at 6:30 pm. This year's Glocal Challenge is focused on energy efficiency in Cambridge. Cambridge Rindge and Latin School students have developed innovative solutions to reduce Cambridge's municipal and residential building energy use significantly by 2017 to help in the City's bid to win the Georgetown University Energy Prize. Next week, they compete for seed funding and paid internships to implement their projects as well as free trips to Iceland for the "Future of Energy" EF Global Student Leaders Summit. To RSVP, [click here](#).
- **Boston Area Sustainability Group** – January 5, 6:00 pm, Venture Café, One Broadway, 5th floor. The topic is "The Clean Energy Transition". The program will start with a screening of *The Last Mountain* from the 2011 Sundance Film Festival. A discussion will follow about the experience of Salem and Somerset as their coal-fired power plants close. Panelists include Eric Grunebaum, who produced the film; Eric Courchesne, Chief of Environmental Protection at the Mass. Attorney General's office; Representative Lori Erlich. [To register, click here](#).
- **ACCO Climate Fundamentals Academy** – January 7-8, 2016. The Association of Climate Change Officers will present a two day academy on climate science, methods for identifying climate hazards and conducting vulnerability assessments, leveraging climate data and tools, and other topics. The academy instructors are drawn from academia, government agencies, and consultant firms. This academy was rescheduled from an earlier date. 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. Registration is open and agenda details are on the conference webpage. The third day of the conference has concurrent summits on business continuity and education.
- **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

- **CCVA Part 1 Report** – The City of Cambridge has issued *CCVA Report – Part 1*, which focuses on the City’s climate change vulnerability assessment in terms of risks related to increasing temperatures and precipitation. The report consists of a 36-page summary report and three technical reports. Key findings of the report include that heat vulnerability and precipitation driven flooding are more imminent concerns for Cambridge; significant storm surge risks related to sea level rise lie beyond 2030 due to the city’s position behind two dams; there are critical infrastructure assets that are vulnerable to heat and flooding; social vulnerability is not evenly distributed across the city; Heat stress to human health are very likely to be come much more severe; there are social vulnerabilities related to food safety and availability, critical community resources and services at risk; economic losses from business disruption would be greater than losses from property damage; many of our vulnerabilities are related to regional systems such as transit and energy. The summary report and technical reports are [available on the project webpage](#) under the “CCVA Report” tab. A second report will be issued on the risks of storm surge flooding and sea level rise. [\[City Media Advisory, 11/30/15; NextCity, 12/7/15\]](#)
- **Storm Surge Flood Risk Results** – The City of Cambridge has completed modeling of storm surge risks related to sea level rise. In a partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, which has assessed the risks to the Central Artery, the City worked to extend the Boston Harbor Flood Risk Model to Cambridge. It covers both the Charles and Mystic River sides of the city. The modeling was performed by consultants at the Woods Hole Group in coordination with Kleinfelder. The findings were discussed at a public meeting on December 3, 2015. The modeling will be used to complete the climate change vulnerability assessment which will serve as the foundation of the Climate Change Preparedness and Resilience Plan that will start up in the first part of 2016. The presentation slides are available on the [CCVA project webpage](#).
- **Water Department Solar PV** – The Cambridge Water Department has installed a 170 kilowatt solar photovoltaic system on the roof of the Sullivan Water Treatment Facility. The Water Department is the largest user of electricity among municipal facilities. [\[Cambridge Chronicle, 12/3/15\]](#)
- **CEA Block Captains Sought** - The City of Cambridge is seeking motivated individuals to join its team of Block Captains to catapult the City into first place as the largest energy saver in the country. Cambridge is a semi-finalist in the \$5 million [Georgetown University Energy Prize](#) and we need help from you to get over the goal line. If you are interested in helping your neighbors and your City save energy through Mass

Save no-cost energy assessments, please fill out this [brief interest questionnaire](#) by the optional kick-off event on January 11th, 2016. If you have questions, contact Jessica at Outreach@CambridgeEnergyAlliance.org.

- **Cambridge Selected for Envision America** – Cambridge is among 10 U.S. cities selected for [Envision America](#), a smart cities initiative supported by the White House. Participants will attend a workshop in Charlotte, North Carolina to learn about the approach of Envision Charlotte which focuses on commercial building energy performance. The other nine selected cities are Dallas, TX; Greenville, SC; Los Angeles, CA; Milwaukee, WI; New York City, NY; Pittsburgh, PA; Portland, OR; San Diego, CA; and Spokane, WA. The [Community Compact for a Sustainable Future](#) applied for Cambridge. [\[Envision America press release, 12/4/15\]](#)
- **Harvard Breaks LEED Record** – Harvard University has earned certifications from the US Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design system than any other higher education institution in the world. This past fall the 100th space was certified by the USGBC, which was the LEED Platinum renovation of Esteves Hall at the business school. [\[Harvard Gazette, 11/17/15\]](#)
- **Massachusetts Ranked High on Climate Preparedness** – Massachusetts was rated among the highest states for climate change preparedness, according to [Climate Central's States at Risk project](#).

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **Philadelphia Climate Ready Plan** – Philadelphia issued its climate change preparedness plan [Growing Stronger: Toward a Climate-Ready Philadelphia](#).
- **GAO Report on Climate Change Health Risks** - The General Accounting Office has [a report](#) on how the Department of Health and Human Services could take steps to develop further understanding of the public health risks of climate change.
- **Returns on Resilience: The Business Case** –The Urban Land Institute has a new report [Returns on Resilience: The Business Case](#).
- **Climate Change/Global Food Security** – New report from USDA on [Climate Change, Global Food Security, and the U.S. Food System](#). [Thanks to Kari Sasportas, Public Health Dept.]
- **AG Natural Gas Study** – The Massachusetts Attorney General has issued [a report](#) on whether Massachusetts needs new gas transmission pipelines. [\[Commonwealth Magazine, 11/18/15\]](#)
- **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.
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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 webpage.