

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

February 2016

MEETING: The next meeting of the Climate Protection Action Committee is scheduled for February 11, 6:00 pm, City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway. The meeting will focus on the CPAC work plan and also a discussion about decarbonizing the city. The agenda for the meeting will be posted on the [Community Development Department website](#).

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **BSA CORE** – February 9 (TONIGHT!), 6:00 pm, BSA Space, 290 Congress Street, Suite 200, Boston. The Boston Society of Architects Committee on Resilient Environments is hosting a presentation and discussion about the Cambridge Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, with Nathalie Beauvais from Kleinfelder and John Bolduc from the Cambridge Community Development Department. [For more information, click here.](#)
- **Envision Cambridge Panel** – February 11, 6:00 pm, Cambridge Public Library, Lecture Hall, 449 Broadway. Members of the Envision Cambridge consultant team, which is developing the citywide plan, will discuss the approach to the plan. [For more information, including the panel speakers, click here.](#)
- **BuildingEnergy Boston 2016** – March 8-10, Seaport World Trade Center, Boston. The annual conference of the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association. On March 8th, a pre-conference, all-day workshop will be held on *A How-to Guide to Carbon Neutral Cities*, with Gustaf Landahl, Stockholm, Sweden Department of Planning & Environment; Jorgen Abildgaard, City of Copenhagen; Robert Leaver, New Commons; and Susanne Rasmussen, City of Cambridge. [For more information about the session and the speakers, click here.](#)
- **GlobalCon Energy Conference** - March 9-10, Hynes Convention Center, Boston. This is a conference of the Association of Energy Engineers. On March 9, there will be a session on city energy benchmarking ordinances, including the Cambridge Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance. [For more information about the conference, 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.](#)
- **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

- **Governor Says State on Target for 25% GHG Reduction by 2020** – The Commonwealth issued an [update to the Massachusetts Clean Energy & Climate Plan](#). The Governor reports that the state is on track to meet the 25% greenhouse gas reduction target by 2020. There are contrary perspectives on the status of the state's progress in meeting the target. The updated plan reiterates that for the long term, the only viable path to achieve 80% GHG emissions reductions by 2050 is through a combination of reduced energy consumption, expanded availability of clean electricity, and electrification of the transportation and heating sectors or “reduce, electrify, and decarbonize.” “Electrification poses a particular challenge because of the need for new infrastructure, including transmission lines, storage capacity, and consumer-facing components such as public vehicle charging stations and smart meters.” [[Governor's press release, 1/19/16](#); [Boston Globe, 1/19/16](#)]
- **GUEP Update** - In the City's continued competition for the [Georgetown University Energy Prize](#), the [Cambridge Energy Alliance](#) recently launched a Steering Committee to aid in the [In It to Win it Campaign](#). The Steering Committee is a team of community leaders that advises the City on its energy efficiency engagement strategy, influencing the direction of current projects and new initiatives. The committee will also work hand in hand with stakeholders throughout the community and help with public outreach. Leading up to the end of the competition, the committee will also be working with the City to develop a plan for using the \$5 million dollar prize to best help Cambridge. The committee will meet monthly in working groups on key initiatives such as schools, multi-family housing, block captains, and communications throughout 2016. The City is fortunate enough to be supported by representatives from the energy efficiency sector, affordable housing agencies, local universities, tech and environmental sector businesses, environmental advocacy groups and think tanks, Cambridge Public Schools, the Cambridge Department of Public Works, the Cambridge Community Engagement Team, and engaged citizens. In addition to the direction of the Steering Committee, the campaign still needs the community's help to win the Energy Prize. You can do your part for the city by signing up for a [free home energy assessment](#), where you can learn ways to reduce your energy use and save money on your electricity bills. Look at the [Cambridge Energy Alliance website](#) for information on the Energy Prize, and read the CEA blog, [Warm Home Cool Planet](#), for updates. Contact CEA at Outreach@cambridgeenergyalliance.org for more information.
- **2015 Earth's Warmest Year on Record** – [NASA and NOAA made it official](#) – 2015 was globally the warmest year on record, since modern record keeping started in 1880. Globally averaged temperatures shattered the previous record set in 2014 by 0.23 degrees Fahrenheit. Only once before, in 1998, has the new record been greater than the old record by this much. El Nino was in effect during most of 2015, but NASA scientist Gavin Schmidt said “Last year's temperatures had an assist from El Nino, but it is the cumulative effect of the long-term trend that has resulted in the record warming that we are seeing.” [[CityLab, 1/20/16](#)]
- **Forward Fund Seeking Proposals** – The Cambridge Redevelopment Authority is seeking proposals for its [Forward Fund](#), its micro-grant program, that involve “innovative improvement projects and creative physical interventions that better Cambridge's built environment for the benefit of all the city's residents, workers, and visitors.” The CRA provides \$5,000 grants for planning and design and \$10,000 grants for innovation and experimentation and for infrastructure capital. Up to \$80,000 will be distributed in 2016. The application deadline is March 11.

- **Volpe Supporting Solar Pavement R&D** – The Volpe National Transportation Systems Center, based in Cambridge, has been supporting the development of a solar pavement system. In response to a 2009 solicitation sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration, [Solar Roadways, Inc.](#) was chosen to begin a proof-of concept project. The project involves a self-sustaining pavement made from hexagon-shaped solar panels. In addition to generating energy, the system could eliminate the need for replacing asphalt. A second phase of funding was granted in 2011 to develop and test a prototype. Solar Roadways found that the optimal solar panel could be made from low-iron glass with a transparent surface, which results in a product that provides four-color LED lighting and heating features that melt snow. Together with additional funding, including \$2.2 million raised through crowd-sourcing, the company is working to bring down the cost of manufacturing. [[Volpe blog, 1/19/16](#)]

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **Jobs** – The Harvard Office of Sustainability is seeking two Sustainability Managers. For the job descriptions and to apply, [click here](#). The MIT Office of Sustainability is seeking a [Sustainability Project Manager](#).
- **Solar+Storage for Affordable Housing** – The [Clean Energy Group](#) has resources to help develop resilient power applications, using solar energy coupled with energy storage, to serve low-income and vulnerable populations.
- **RE100** – The Climate Group has a new report [RE100: The Journey to 100%](#), which reports on how businesses are switching to 100% renewable energy.
- **Climate Impact Visuals** – Climate Access has a [blog post](#) about using visuals and conversation to deepen engagement on climate impacts. The case study focuses on [Here.Now.Us project](#) in Marin County, CA.
- **Retrofitting Buildings is Biggest Challenge** – An [interesting article in the Harvard Business Review](#) by Iain Campbell and Koben Calhon of the Rocky Mountain Institute on how retrofitting existing buildings is the biggest sustainability challenge for U.S. cities, and the need to industrialize the retrofitting process for commercial buildings to deploy more rapidly and at scale.
- **Sustainable Real Estate Investment & Paris Climate Agreement** – [Sustainable Real Estate Investment: Implementing the Paris Climate Agreement: An Action Framework](#) is from the United Nations Environment Program Finance Initiative.
- **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!

- **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.