

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

March 2016

MEETING: The next meeting of the Climate Protection Action Committee is scheduled for March 10, 6:00 pm, City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway, 2nd floor meeting room. The meeting will focus on a continuation of the discussion on de-carbonization, Cambridge's participation in the Compact of Mayors, and committee work planning. The agenda for the meeting will be posted on the [Community Development Department website](#).

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **Energy Policy Forum** – March 14, 6:00 to 7:30 pm, USGBCMA office, 50 Milk Street, 17th floor, Boston. This is a panel discussion on energy with legislators and industry professionals. Speakers include Senator Brian Downing, co-chair of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy; Betsy Glynn of the Center for Sustainable Energy; Steve Cowell of E2; and Peter Shattuck of the Acadia Center. [For more information and to register, click here](#). Sponsored by the USGBC Massachusetts Chapter. Free for members; fee for non-members.
- **Envision Cambridge Public Workshops** – Thursday, March 24, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, Kennedy Longfellow School Cafeteria, 158 Spring St.; Thursday, March 31, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, Tobin School Cafeteria, 197 Vassal Lane; Saturday, April 2, 1:30 – 3:30 pm, Senior Center, 806 Mass. Ave. For more information and to RSVP, [visit the Envision Cambridge webpage](#).
- **COP21 Paris Climate Talks Unconference** – March 29, 8:30-11:30 am, Boston. The event includes a panel and breakout sessions that will focus on the building sector and GHG emissions in relation to value chain transformation, bridging the investment gap, public policies, and building rating and performance systems. [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.
- **Keeping History Above Water** – April 10-13, Newport, RI. One of the first national conversations about the increasing and varied risks posed by sea level rise to historic coastal communities and their built environments. The focus is on what preservationists, engineers, city planners, legislators, insurers, historic home owners, and decision makers need to know about climate change and what can be done to protect historic buildings, landscapes, and neighborhoods from the increasing threat of inundation. For more information and to register, [click here](#).
- **Sustainability On Campus & Main Street** – April 15, Hampshire College, Amherst April 16, Northampton. Learn about best practices and resources to advance sustainable development on campuses and in communities. For more information and to register, see [the conference website](#).
- **Building Tech Forum 2016** – April 21, 5:30-8:30 pm, Greentown Labs, 28 Dane Street, Somerville. This forum is about trends in building technology and improving building performance. Sponsored by USGBC Massachusetts. [For more information and to register, click here](#).
- **ACCO Climate Fundamentals Academy** – May 24-25, MIT. This workshop will provide participants with a foundation for understanding greenhouse gas emissions and related reporting and disclosure

frameworks, strategies for engaging stakeholders and leading organizational change, assessing the legal and policy landscape and examining the economic implications of climate change. Participants will learn about specific initiatives in their localities, states and regions, as well as relevant national and international activity.

- GHG-101: Basics of GHG Accounting, Reporting & Disclosing GHG Emissions
- Governance-101: Engaging Stakeholders & Establishing Strategies for Leading Organizational Change
- Governance-102: Understanding the Legal/Policy Landscape & Determining the Best Strategy for Your Organization
- Economics-101: The Economics of Climate Change
- Case Studies on Regional Climate Initiatives
- Special Guest Remarks from Local Officials

MIT in partnership with ACCO is offering a 20% discount on registration. Use promo code **CFA-Discount-MIT** when prompted. [For more information 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.](#)
- **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

- **MLK School Grand Opening** – The Martin Luther King, Jr. School [grand opening](#) was celebrated on February 28th. The reconstructed school was the City's first effort to follow net zero energy principles. While net zero status was not achieved, the school is designed to achieve an energy use intensity 60% better than typical educational facilities. It's features include a ground source heat pump system, solar photovoltaics, and grey water reclamation. [[Perkins Eastman webpage](#)]
- **BYOB Ordinance Takes Effect March 31** – The [Cambridge Bring Your Own Bag \(BYOB\) Ordinance](#) will take effect on March 31. The ordinance encourages the use of reusable checkout bags for retail shopping and bans the use of single-use plastic bags and requires a 10 cent charge for other bags provided by the retail establishment. The purpose of the ordinance is to protect marine and aquatic environments, advance solid waste reduction, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Envision Cambridge Public Meetings** – As part of the Envision Cambridge citywide planning process, the Community Development Department is holding a series of three public meetings to hear from the public what matters the most and what should be addressed in the plan. The meetings will be held as listed in the events section above on March 24 and 31 and April 2. There are four ways for people to participate: [take a survey](#); tweet topics with #EnvisionCambridge; email topics to

envision@cambridgema.gov; and attend a workshop. The Envision Cambridge street teams are also out with a mobile engagement station to collect thoughts and input for the plan. The station includes a 3D map of Cambridge and another map to write ideas on. To find out where the mobile engagement station will be, [check the schedule](#).

- **[Rate of Sea Level Rise Fastest in Millenia](#)** - Recent scientific research indicates that sea level rose more during the 20th century than any previous century over the past 2,500 years. Global sea level rise is averaging currently about 3 millimeters per year. The large increase in the 20th century is consistent with human-caused global warming. Other new research projects sea level rise over the 21st century. These projections, based on semi-empirical equations rather than models, suggest seas could rise in the range of 1 to 2 feet under an emissions scenario that limits global average temperature increases to 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) or 1.7 to 4.3 feet if temperatures rise by 5 degrees Celsius (9 degrees F) due to unabated GHG emissions. And finally, even if global warming is limited to 2 degrees Celsius (the Paris Climate Summit target), ultimately over millenia sea level would rise around 25 meters (82 feet). The research was summarized in a [recent post on RealClimate](#) and a perspective was provided by [Ben Strauss of Climate Central on the PBS News Hour](#).

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **[NEEP Renter's Guide to Green Real Estate](#)** – The Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership has produced the [Guide for Renting and Creating Lower Cost Energy Efficient Apartments and Homes](#) to help renters and real estate professionals identify energy waste and opportunities to improve energy performance.
- **[Counter-Intuitiveness of Sea Level Rise](#)** – An [interesting interview in Nautilus](#) with Harvard geophysicist Jerry Mitrovica on the counter-intuitiveness of sea level rise. It's not as straight forward as most of us think.
- **[Water Heaters as Hidden Batteries](#)** – A report from the Brattle Group, a consultancy based in Harvard Square, finds that electric water heaters – both resistance and heat pump based – can provide environmental benefits and cost savings through load management. The report is titled [The Hidden Battery: Opportunities in Electric Water Heating](#).
- **[Commercial Solar Guide](#)** – Franklin Beach Energy produced a free guide for commercial buildings on how to determine if solar PV is right and how to contract for it. The guide is titled [Commercial Solar: A Potential Revenue Source for Property Owners](#).
- **[Community Resilience Building Guide](#)** – The [Community Resilience Building Guide](#) is for municipalities, organizations, corporations, and agencies to build community resilience and adapt to climate-driven extreme weather and hazards. The guide is based on workshops conducted in 35 communities.
- **[Individual Emissions Reductions](#)** – A study by University of Michigan researchers compares various actions that individuals can take to reduce their carbon footprints while having the least impact on current lifestyles. The study suggests that small scale individual carbon reduction actions can't reduce national emissions enough to reach current goals. [[CityLab, 2/24/16](#)]
- **[Technology and the Future of Cities](#)** – The President's Council on Science and Technology has a new report titled [Technology and the Future of Cities](#), which discusses smart cities approaches to improving transportation, safety, energy efficiency, and public health among other topics.
- **[San Francisco Solar+Storage Disaster Plan](#)** – San Francisco is developing a web based tool to identify opportunities to install solar PV systems with battery storage to improve resiliency at the city and neighborhood scales. A [recent webinar hosted by the Clean Energy Group](#) describes the project.

- **Urban Soil Carbon Release Significant** – Researchers at Boston University have found that urban soils release a surprisingly significant amount of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas. They suggest that soil respiration contributes a significant amount to a city's carbon footprint. CO2 coming out of soil was highest in landscaped areas such as gardens, followed by lawns, and lowest in urban forests. The researchers point to human interventions of adding mulch and fertilizer that leads to soil microbes and roots causing CO2 releases. Some of the study sites where data was collected were located in Cambridge. The article, [Soil respiration contributes substantially to urban carbon fluxes in the greater Boston area](#) appears in the journal *Environmental Pollution*.
- **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 jboulduc@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.