

# Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

## CPAC BULLETIN

### May 2016

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**MEETING:** The next meeting of the Climate Protection Action Committee is scheduled for May 12, 6:00 pm, City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway. The focus of this month's meeting is on the topics of developing metrics for the climate protection goals and objectives and the role of electrification in meeting GHG reduction goals. The agenda for the meeting will be posted on the [Community Development Department website](#).

#### EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **Bicycle Month** – May is Bicycle Month and the City is celebrating with many events. For the full list of events, [click here](#).
  - **SXSW Eco's Night** – May 12, 6:00 pm, MIT Technology Review, 1 Main Street. A casual evening of drinks and conversation co-hosted by MIT Technology Review, Climate CoLab, and Solve + Environmental Solutions Initiative to celebrate this year's exciting initiatives of South by Southwest Eco and MIT and how to participate. The event is 21+ and is free. [To register, click here](#).
  - **Focus40** – May 24, Curry Center, Northeastern University. The MBTA is launching its process to develop a 25 year investment plan for the public transit system. The launch event will include an open house and a panel presentation and discussion. [For more information, see the Focus40 website](#).
  - **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](#).
- **NEEP Summit** – June 13-14, Omni Mount Washington Resort, Bretton Woods, NH. This annual meeting is sponsored by the Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership. [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](http://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

- **Making Cities (Cambridge) More Efficient** – Researchers at MIT, using Cambridge buildings for their study, have found a way to model the thermal efficiency of buildings and identify which ones to focus on to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. The researchers, led by Drs. Marta Gonzalez and Franz-Josef Ulm found that there are 82 different parameters that influence the overall thermal efficiency of buildings, but that only 8 are needed to predict almost as accurately how buildings perform. And only 3 factors explain 80 to 90 percent of the variability. Their analysis showed that selecting just 16 percent of Cambridge buildings could reduce natural gas usage by 40 percent. The study appears in the journal Interface published by The Royal Society. [[MIT News, 4/20/16](#)]
- **MIT Climate Action Update** – MIT Vice President Maria Zuber released a report outlining progress to date on key areas of the university's five-year Plan for Action on Climate Change. The report provides an update on the formation of the Climate Action Advisory Committee and recent actions on the five pillars of the action plan. In the area of using the MIT campus as a test bed for change, the university recently issued a campus greenhouse gas emissions inventory and is expected in the next few months to issue a report outlining actions to achieve and exceed the campus GHG reduction of 32 percent by 2030. MIT has emphasized that the 32 percent reduction goal is a minimum and that the university will strive to achieve carbon neutrality. [[MIT News, 4/27/16](#)]
- **Rainbarrels: Last Chance** – The Cambridge Public Works Department is [taking order for rain barrels](#) until May 12. The program is offering 60-gallon barrels for \$79. Volunteers from Green Cambridge will also install the barrels for free.
- **Cambridge Municipal Building Energy Use** – The [2015 Municipal Energy Use Disclosure Report](#) has been released by the Department of Public Works. The report shows energy use data for all City-owned buildings that contain at least 10,000 square feet. Data is also posted for 2013 and 2014. The 2015 data show that the average Energy Star score for school buildings is 74 on a scale of 1 to 100 where 50 is average.
- **Envision Cambridge Survey #2** – Envision Cambridge, the citywide comprehensive plan process, has put out its second survey to find out what hopes and dreams residents have for Cambridge's future. [Please take the survey by clicking here](#).

## RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **Basis of Scientific Consensus on Climate Change** – A [new article has been published in Environmental Research Letters](#) bringing together researchers who study the views of climate scientists

on human caused climate change. The 16 researchers reached a consensus that 97% of climate scientists agree that human caused climate change is happening.

- **Strengthening Paris Climate Pledges** – The Paris Climate Agreement provides a framework and start to move toward limiting global warming to 2 degrees Celsius. The commitments only run to 2030 and are not sufficient to achieve the goal as it stands. [Climate Interactive lays out two scenarios](#) to achieve emission reductions that would be needed to reach the goal. The “ambition deferred” scenario assumes nations fulfill their pledges for reductions by 2030 and then implement further reductions afterward. The “ratchet success” scenario involves nations increasing their commitments before 2030 and then continuing reductions after. The “ambition deferred” scenario requires very steep cuts after 2030. The analysis shows how much more needs to be cut by the EU, US, China, other developed countries, and other developing countries.
- **Louisville Urban Heat Management Study** – Louisville, Kentucky has issued very robust [Urban Heat Management Study](#), performed by the Urban Climate Lab at the Georgia Institute of Technology headed by Dr. Brian Stone. Louisville has been identified as being amongst the most at risk cities to heat.
- **Transforming NYC Buildings for a Low Carbon Future** – New York City’s [One City Built to Last Technical Working Group](#) has issued a report on transforming NYC buildings for a low-carbon future. The report makes higher level policy recommendations. It also includes analysis of existing buildings, using 8 key building typologies that cover about 60 percent of built square footage and identifies retrofit pathways that fit each best.
- **Role of Methane in Global Warming** – A [new study in Nature Climate Change](#) shows why understanding the importance of methane in global warming is difficult and confusing. The [Washington Post discusses the article](#).
- **AllTransit** – [AllTransit](#) is a new interactive webtool that maps access, quality, and use of transit across 371 cities in the US. Among cities with populations of 100,000 more more, Cambridge ranks #3 behind New York City and San Francisco. The tool was developed by the Center for Neighborhood Technology and TransitCenter. [[Urban Land, 5/9/16](#)]
- **Tesla Powerwall Hits the Market** – The Tesla Powerwall home energy storage system has hit the market. [[Bloomberg, 5/4/16](#)]
- **Cambridge Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment** – The City is nearing completion of its climate change vulnerability assessment that will serve as the foundation for a climate change preparedness plan that will follow. The CCVA Report – Part 1 was issued in November 2015, which covers the risks of increasing temperatures and precipitation. A second report will be issued on the risks of sea level rise and storm surges. The [project webpage](#) provides background information and documents from meetings. Interested people can send an email to [jbolduc@cambridgema.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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.