

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

June 2016

MEETING: The next meeting of the Climate Protection Action Committee is scheduled for Thursday, June 9, 6:00 pm, City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway. The focus of this month's meeting is on the municipal GHG reduction goals and updates on the low-carbon energy supply study and climate change preparedness plan. The agenda for the meeting will be posted on the [Community Development Department website](#).

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **BASG** – June 7, Venture Café, One Broadway. This month's topic is *Light: Pollution, Prevention, Innovation, & Public Health*. The speakers are Dr. Eva Schernhammer of the Harvard School of Public Health and Jennifer Dolan of Osram Sylvania. [For more information and to register, click here.](#)
- **Dr. Cameron Wake** - June 8, 6:00 pm, Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre - 400 Harvard Street, Cambridge, MA. Dr. Wake is a climatologist at the University of New Hampshire, who will speak on current research and the importance of non-scientific communities rallying around the issue. [For more information, 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.](#)
- **Sunny Cambridge** – June 14, 6:00-7:30 pm, Central Square Library, 45 Pearl Street. The Cambridge Energy Alliance will show residents and businesses how to go solar. Learn how solar can work for you based on your property type; how much you can reduce your carbon footprint and save money; and how to access zero down, low interest financing to make your project happen. This is part of CEA's [Sunny Cambridge](#) program that is collaborating with EnergySage, the online solar marketplace.
- **Envision Cambridge Citywide Visioning** – June 15, 6:30-8:30 pm. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School Cafeteria, 102 Putnam Avenue.
- **Envision Cambridge Panel** – June 30, 6:00-8:00 pm, Main Library Lecture Hall. Theme is "Changes & Opportunities Facing Cambridge".
- **Envision Cambridge Alewife Visioning** – July 21, 6:30-8:30 pm, Tobin School Cafeteria, 197 Vassal Lane.
- **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

- **BEUDO Report** – A report on the first year of reporting under the Cambridge Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance (BEUDO) has been released. The [2015 Building Energy & Water Use Report](#) aggregates energy and water usage data for calendar year 2014 for the properties that reported in 2015. There were 980 residential and non-residential buildings that were covered. A 95% compliance rate was achieved in the first year of implementation of the ordinance. A [map showing compliance status](#) is also posted. The buildings covered by BEUDO accounted for 57 percent of the total floor area in the city. The analysis estimated that about 5 percent of Cambridge's buildings consume more than half of the energy used in the city. For buildings that are eligible for Energy Star ratings from the U.S. EPA, the average Energy Star score was 61, which is above the national average of 50. [[CDD news release, 5/25/16](#)]
- **BRAG Report** – The Boston Research Advisory Group (BRAG), which was established to provide scientific guidance on climate change projections for the City of Boston, issued its report. The [BRAG Report](#) convened a group of scientists from the area, led by a UMass Boston team, to develop a consensus on the possible changes in temperature, precipitation, coastal storms, and sea level rise that the City of Boston will face in 2030, 2050, 2070, and 2100. The report incorporates the work of the Cambridge Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment. The BRAG Report will be used to inform Boston's vulnerability assessment and climate preparedness plan, and is also being used by the Metro Mayors Climate Preparedness Task Force.
- **Boston Properties Sustainability Goals** – Boston Properties, a major commercial property owner in Cambridge and other markets, has announced sustainability goals for the first time in a report that aligns with the Global Reporting Initiative. For 2020 and assuming a 2008 base year, Boston Properties aims to reduce energy use intensity by 15 percent (kbtu/sf); reduce greenhouse gas intensity from energy consumption by 20 percent (kgCO₂/sf); reduce water use intensity by 20 percent (gallons/sf); and increase waste diverted from landfills by 65 percent. The report can be found on the [BP sustainability webpage](#).
- **SJC Rules DEP Must Issue Stronger GWSA Regulations** – The Massachusetts Supreme Court ruled on the case of *Kain et al. v. Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)* and found in favor of the plaintiffs who are four youths, the Conservation Law Foundation, and the Massachusetts Energy Consumers Alliance. The court found that the Commonwealth is not complying with the legal obligation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ordered the DEP to “promulgate regulations that address multiple sources or categories of sources of greenhouse gas emissions, impose a limit on emissions that may be released .. and set limits that decline on an annual basis.” DEP will have to develop a response to this ruling. [[EcoWatch, 5/17/16](#)]
- **CoStar Building Energy Data** – The U.S. Department of Energy announced a partnership with CoStar Group, Inc. to expand the visibility of energy-efficient buildings in U.S. property markets and promote the benefits of energy efficiency for owners and occupants. CoStar provides commercial real estate intelligence to its clients. The CoStar database already shows buildings that achieve Energy Star labels. The intention of the DOE-CoStar partnership is to incorporate building energy use benchmarking data in the cities that have energy use disclosure ordinances such as Cambridge. They will start incorporating energy disclosure data in Chicago and Washington, DC this summer and then add the other cities afterward. [[U.S. Department of Energy, 5/26/16](#)]

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **Spiraling Global Temperatures** – A [visualization of global temperature change](#) spiraling over time toward the 2 degree Celsius threshold has been created by UK climate scientist Ed Hawkins.
- **Ontario Climate Plan** – The Province of Ontario, Canada ambitious plan to spend \$7 billion over four years to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions was leaked last month. The plan, which is expected to be formally released on June 8th, is reported to include \$3.8 billion of new subsidies to move buildings off natural gas to electric-based energy systems such as ground source and air source heat pumps and solar; new building code rules that would require new homes and small buildings constructed after 2030 to be fossil fuel free; \$285 million for electric vehicle incentives; and other measures. [[Globe & Mail, 5/16/16](#); thanks to Quinton Zondervan for forwarding]
- **Shockingly Fast Payback for Energy Modeling** – An [analysis by HOK architect Anica Landreneau](#) finds that the payback for energy modeling on development projects is typically 1 or 2 months. This is the type of energy modeling used to inform design. The findings were presented at the recent US DOE Better Buildings Summit.
- **Why People Don't Take Climate Action** – An interesting paper in Nature Climate Change looked at why even among people who are “alarmed” about climate change, often do not take public action, although they may be addressing the problem in their own lives. The researchers found that what drives public action is the sense of how active people around them are on climate change and the sense of whether they think their own actions will be effective. [[Washington Post, 5/16/16](#)]
- **Benefits & Limitations of Urban Agriculture** - A [paper from the John Hopkins University Center for a Livable Future](#) examines the benefits and limitations of urban agriculture. [[Vox, 5/16/16](#)]
- **AMOC Slowing** – A [post on Real Climate](#) reviews recent scientific literature that indicates the Gulf Stream System or Atlantic Meridional Ocean Circulation has weakened about 15 to 20% over the 20th century and has continued in this century. This has implications for sea level rise and weather patterns along the East Coast. It was also reported that the Gulf of Maine warmed faster than any other marine ecosystem between 2004 and 2013.
- **10 Things to Know about Sea Level Rise** – The Washington Post published a list of the [10 things you should know about sea level rise and how bad it could be](#) (e.g., there is enough water stored in ice to raise oceans by 230 feet).
- **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 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.