

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

November 2016

MEETING: The Climate Protection Action Committee will meet on November 10th, 6:00 pm at City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway, 2nd floor meeting room. The main topic of the meeting will be to review progress on the Net Zero Action Plan. The agenda for the meeting will be posted on the [Community Development Department website](#).

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **Restoring Oceans, Restoring Climate** – November 18-20, Harvard University. For more information and to register, [click here](#). Presented by Biodiversity for a Livable Planet.
- **Joint Solar Power Purchase Aggregation Forum** – November 29, 4:00-7:30 pm, Samberg Center, Change Building, 50 Memorial Drive, MIT. The forum about the recent joint power purchase agreement involving MIT, Boston Medical Center, and Friends of Post Office Square to enable a solar PV farm in North Carolina (see news item below). To register, [click here](#).
- **National Adaptation Forum** – May 9-11, 2017, St. Paul, Minnesota. For more information, [click here](#).
- **GreenBuild 2017** – November 2017, Boston Convention Center. The international green building conference and expo of the U.S. Green Building Council will be held in Boston again next year. Persons interested in serving on the host committee or conference subcommittees should [visit the USGBC Massachusetts Chapter website](#).
- **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. It focuses on implementation of federal stormwater regulations, flooding and water quality in the Little River, and development improvement projects such as work at Blair Pond.
- **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

- **New City Manager** – Louis DePasquale has been appointed by the City Council as the new City Manager, succeeding Richard Rossi who retired in September. Mr. DePasquale has been serving as the Assistant City Manager for Finance and has been with the City for 41 years. His contract will run for four years and

one month. He will be sworn in on November 14th, 9:30 am in the Sullivan Chamber at City Hall.

[\[Cambridge Day, 11/7/16\]](#)

- **Volunteers Sought for Envision Cambridge Working Groups** – The City is seeking volunteers to serve on four newly formed [Envision Cambridge Working Groups](#) on Housing, Climate & Environment, Economic Development, and Transportation. The working groups will advise the City and the Envision Cambridge consultant team and develop topic-specific recommendations. Any Cambridge resident, property owner, or representative of a local business or institutions is eligible. Letters of application are due by November 18th. Letters should be sent to Melissa Peters, Community Development Department, 344 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02139 or mpeters@cambridgema.gov. The working groups are expected to meet five times during the first half of 2017.
- **MIT Invests in Solar Farm** – MIT, along with Boston Medical Center and the Post Office Square Redevelopment Corporation, signed a 25-year contract to purchase the power from a new 60 megawatt solar photovoltaic farm to be constructed by Dominion Resources in North Carolina. MIT will buy 73% of the power output. It intends to sell the power back into the North Carolina power grid and retain the renewable energy certificates. The institutions will be able to claim the abatement of 119,500 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions. MIT projects it will be able to offset 17 percent of its GHG emissions. The agreement will be discussed at a forum to be held at MIT on November 29th (see events above). [\[MIT News Release, 10/19/16\]](#); [\[Commonwealth, 10/19/16\]](#)
- **MIT Engine** – MIT is organizing a new venture capital fund called Engine to finance startup companies in clean energy, robotics, biotechnology, and other sectors. The university is working to raise \$150 million and will be the lead investor with its contribution of \$25 million. MIT intends to back projects that are typically too expensive or take longer than traditional equity markets are willing to support. MIT is also opening an incubator space and will offer startups access to MIT research facilities, along with labs of other schools and hospitals that participate. Startups do not need to have an MIT connection. [\[Boston Globe, 10/16/16\]](#)
- **Sustainability Compact 3-Year Workplan** – The members of the [Cambridge Compact for a Sustainable Future](#) have approved its first strategic plan. The Compact was founded by the City, MIT, and Harvard in 2013 and now involves 20 institutional, business, and public partners. The Compact leverages the combined capacities of its partners to address sustainability challenges. The three-year plan focuses on advancing sustainability through education, research, outreach, and advocacy in five key areas: greenhouse gas inventories, building energy, climate resiliency and adaptation, renewable energy, and sustainable transportation. The first year of the plan highlights hosting of educational events, establishment of a lab energy working group, and an initiative to inventory members' procurement practices for renewable energy. [\[CDD News, 10/17/16\]](#)
- **IMT Catalyzing Efficiency Report** – The Institute for Market Transformation (IMT) issued a new report titled [Catalyzing Efficiency: Unlocking Energy Information and Value in Apartment Buildings](#). With more cities adopting building energy use disclosure ordinances, such as the one in Cambridge, there is a wealth of energy performance data that can be used to engage stakeholders to attain economic and environmental benefits. IMT is presenting a series of four webinars to highlight findings from the report. Cambridge will be featured in the first webinar on November 17th, 2:00 pm which will discuss how efficiency implementers have capitalized on city benchmarking data to build and refine programs to better engage owners and managers to implement cost effective actions in multi-family buildings. To register for the webinar, [click here](#).
- **GreenBuild 2017 Call for Proposals** – GreenBuild 2017, the international green building conference and expo organized by the US Green Building Council, will be held in Boston November 8 – 10, 2017. A call for proposals has been opened to develop the conference program. Interested parties can propose panels and other events by going to the [GreenBuild website](#) and submitting an idea. The call for proposals closes on January 13th.

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **ULI Tenant Energy Optimization Program** – The Urban Land Institute has created a 10-step [Tenant Energy Optimization Program](#) to address building tenant energy use and efficiency.
- **Transforming the Market Through EMIS** – IMT has a new report titled [Transforming the Market through Energy Management Information Systems](#), which surveys platforms and services.
- **Lobsters & Climate Change** - An interesting [interactive map](#) showing the distribution of American Lobster (choose the species in dropdown menu) over time illustrates how warming waters have shifted the population of the species northward. Between 1996 and 2014, New York landings dropped 97.7%, Connecticut decreased 96.6%, and Rhode Island went down 70.3%. At the same time, the landings in Maine have boomed. Researchers say the population has been steady, but the distribution has changed. The Gulf of Maine is one of the fastest warming places on the planet. [[Climate.gov, 10/6/16](#)]
- **Planting Healthy Air** – The Nature Conservancy has a new report, [Planting Healthy Air](#), that analyzes the role of urban trees in addressing particulate pollution and extreme heat. The analysis is quantitative and scientific. The online version of the report allows users to view city level data, including metro Boston. While return on investment for tree planting is generally low for developed nations, there are areas within the analyzed cities where the ROI is good according to the report.
- **ASLA Resilient Design Guide** – The American Society of Landscape Architects has developed a [Resilient Design Guide](#).
- **Comprehensive Business Case for Sustainability** – The Harvard Business Review published an article on [The Comprehensive Business Case for Sustainability](#) (site allows 4 free article views). A useful synthesis to help make the case.
- **Sun Number Score on Zillow** – Zillow, the national real estate service, has begun to include ratings of properties for solar energy potential. Zillow has partnered with Sun Number Score, which was incubated under the U.S. Department of Energy's Sunshot Initiative. Zillow Users can look up properties and see the potential for solar energy. It appears that ratings are provided for multifamily buildings, but not for units generally. In Cambridge and some other cities, [Mapdwell](#) provides a free solar energy potential assessment. [[EERE news release, 10/24/16](#)]
- **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 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.