

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

December 2016

MEETING: The Climate Protection Action Committee will meet on December 8th, 6:00 pm at City Hall in the Sullivan Chamber (note the change from the usual meeting location). This will be the annual meeting with the City Manager and departments. The agenda for the meeting will be posted on the [Community Development Department website](#).

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **Climate Ready Boston Report Release** – December 8, 7:00 pm, District Hall, Boston. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Movie: Age of Consequences** - December 9, 7:00 pm, First Parish Church, 3 Church St. This new film investigates the impacts of climate change, resource scarcity, migration and conflict through the lens of US national security and global stability. Discussion will follow. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Refugees, Resiliency & Public Space: the BSA Syria Initiative** – December 12, 6:00-8:00 pm, BSA, 290 Congress St., Fort Point Room. The Boston Society of Architects is launching an initiative to address a need for child-focused public space facilities to serve refugees in Lebanon. A collaboration between design professionals in Beirut and Boston, in partnership with the Karam Foundation and Sawa for Development and Aid will be established. This launch event includes a panel discussion with Dr. Atyia Martin, Boston Chief Resilience Officer; Majed Abdulsamad, Columbia Graduate School of Architecture, Miho Mazereeuw, MIT Urban Risk Lab, and Nathalie Beauvais, lead climate change projects at Kleinfelder. For more information and to register, [click here](#).
- **Measuring Socioeconomic Vulnerability** – January 23-27; MIT. A five day inter-session course on measuring socioeconomic vulnerability which includes a focus on local climate change vulnerability using recent work from Cambridge and Boston. Course may be audited. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Preparing Urban Forests for Climate Change** – January 24-25, MIT. This workshop is aimed at urban and community forestry professionals, planners, and others in the Boston region on how to develop and implement management actions to help urban forests respond to climate change. The workshop is organized by the US Forest Service Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science with support from MAPC, MA Department of Conservation & Recreation, City of Cambridge, Trust for Public Land, and MIT. For more information and to register, [click here](#). Small registration fee applies to cover lunch.
- **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

- **Metro Boston Cities Commit to Net Zero** – The 14 members of the Metro Mayors Coalition, including Cambridge, met on November 17th to review progress on the Metro Boston Climate Preparedness Commitment and formally agreed to expand the commitment to mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. The [Metro Mayors Climate Mitigation Commitment](#) pledges that each municipality will develop and/or implement a local climate mitigation plan and implement at least three actions by 2020 from a list in the agreement, and seek to achieve “net zero/carbon-free status” by 2050.
- **2015 BEUDO Data Posted** – The City has publicly posted energy and water usage data from Cambridge’s larger buildings on the [Cambridge Open Data Portal](#) for the first time. The data was reported under the Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance (BEUDO) which was enacted by the City Council in 2014. The ordinance covers over 1,100 buildings. An analysis of the 2014 usage data is available on the [BEUDO webpage](#). An aggregate analysis report on the 2015 data will be available soon. BEUDO was enacted to collect energy and water usage data from the city’s larger residential, commercial, and institutional buildings to inform the real estate market and provide planning information to the City and stakeholders.
- **IEA Says Paris Agreement Not Enough** – The International Energy Agency finds that while reaching the greenhouse gas emission reduction targets pledged by all the nations would slow climate change, it would not be enough to keep global average temperatures from rising more than 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. IEA estimates that if all the pledges are met, temperatures would still rise 2.7 degrees Celsius by 2100. Further, “The transformation required for a reasonable chance to remaining with the temperature goal of 1.5 degrees Celsius is stark.” [\[New York Times, 11/16/16\]](#)
- **RAC Looking for Members** – If you are interested in protecting the climate, reducing waste, or engaging your community, Cambridge’s City Manager is seeking residents, business owners, professionals, and others who are passionate about or whose goals overlap with waste reduction to apply for the Recycling Advisory Committee (RAC). The RAC is a volunteer committee which provides advice, recommendations, and assistance to the Department of Public Works on recycling, composting, reuse, and waste reduction. It is a 3-year appointment and members are expected to attend monthly meetings (Sept-June). The deadline to apply is Friday December 2, 2016. The incoming RAC members will be critical to helping Cambridge achieve our goal of reducing waste 30% by 2020, with 2008 as a baseline. If you're interested in applying visit [here](#) for more information. Email Recycling Director Mike Orr at morr@cambridgema.gov with any questions.
- **MBTA Focus40 Wants to Hear from You** - The Focus40 [Street Team](#) has been out at stops and stations around the system, collecting the public’s ideas for the MBTA’s future. The Street Team is made up of MassDOT staff, community members, and partner organizations and has already engaged with over 1,000 MBTA customers and received more than 1,500 ideas. The MBTA will be using these ideas to generate investment strategies to better serve the Boston region in the future. If you missed the Street Team in your neighborhood, you can [submit your ideas online](#) until **December 23**. The MBTA wants to hear from

everyone who has a stake in the success of the MBTA – from everyday riders to those who live and work in the region but do not currently choose to use the system. One idea that the T has heard repeatedly is the need for faster and more reliable bus service. The City of Everett is moving forward with a [pilot project](#) to help achieve this with a dedicated bus lane on portions of Broadway. This pilot, which was a recommendation of MassDOT's recent [Everett Transit Action Plan](#), could benefit the 5,000 daily riders in the corridor. Focus40 hopes to leverage municipal partnerships like this to advance bus improvements throughout the region. If you have any questions or comments, or would like someone from the Focus40 Project Team to present at a community meeting, please contact MassDOT's Project Manager, Scott Hamwey, at 857-368-9800 or via email at focus40@dot.state.ma.us.

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **[Recycling Advisory Committee](#)** - Waste reduction fights climate change! [42% of US greenhouse gas](#) emissions are from materials management. Help us meet Cambridge's waste reduction goals and stay informed with the monthly [Cambridge recycling e-newsletter](#). Full of practical information, helpful tips, and fun events, this newsletter regularly receives compliments from the many Cambridge residents already subscribed! You can sign up quickly [here](#).
- **[Deadline 2020](#)** – In follow up to the Paris Climate Summit, this report titled [Deadline 2020: How Cities Will Get the Job Done](#) was released at the C40 Mayors Climate Summit in Mexico City recently. The report notes the next 4 years are critical and even carbon emissions are not dramatically reduced, then the world will have locked-in sufficient future emissions to exceed the 2 degree Celsius increase in temperature. [[CityLab, 12/1/16](#)]
- **[Green Facades](#)** – Arup issued a report titled [Cities Alive: Green Building Envelope](#) about the role of green facades and the factors that affect their environmental performance.
- **[Adaptation State of Practice](#)** – The Kresge Foundation, with Cambridge-based Abt Associates, issued a new report titled [Climate Adaptation: The State of Practice in U.S. Communities](#).
- **[Extreme Heat Guidebook](#)** – The USEPA and Centers for Disease Control issued [Climate Change and Extreme Heat: What You Can Do to Prepare](#).
- **[Cities & States Lead on Climate Change](#)** – A [op-ed in the New York Times](#) on how states and cities will lead on climate change from Jeff Biggers at the Climate Narrative Project at Iowa State University.
- **[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.