

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

January 2017

MEETING: The Climate Protection Action Committee will meet on January 12th, 6:00 pm at City Hall Annex, 2nd floor. This meeting will focus on the first Net Zero Action Plan progress report. The agenda for the meeting will be posted on the [Community Development Department website](#).

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **Normalizing Denial** – January 11, 7:00 pm, First Parish Church, 3 Church Street. This is a Cambridge Forum event with Bill McKibben, 350.org; Dr. Gretch Goldman, Center for Science & Democracy; Tim DeChristopher, climate activist; and Zahra Hirji, InsideClimate News; moderator: Wen Stephenson, *The Nation*. The event is open and free. For more information, [click here](#).
- **BASG** – February 7, 6:00-8:30 pm, One Broadway, Venture Café. The Boston Area Sustainability Group will hold an “Invite to Ignite” event. BASG is seeking six action based organizations to present their work and how BASG attendees can get involved. Send applications to cbaroudi@arrow.com with the subject line: “FEB BASG” by January 17th. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Envision Cambridge Meetings** – January 18, 6:00 pm, 344 Broadway, 4th floor meeting room, *Envision Cambridge Advisory Committee*; January 26, 6:00 pm, Water Department, 250 Fresh Pond Parkway, *Alewife Working Group*; February 8, 6:00 pm, Tobin School Cafeteria, *Alewife Public Meeting*. [Envision Cambridge](#) is the citwide plan process.
- **Organizational Sustainability Course** – Thursday evenings, 7:40-9:40 pm, starting January 26. Harvard Extension course taught by Dr. Robert Pojasek. The course presents sustainability from the perspective of an organization operating in a community setting. For more information, [click here](#). Registration fees apply.
- **High Performance Building/Occupant Well-Being Course** - Thursday evenings, 7:40-9:40 pm, starting January 26. Harvard Extension course taught by Nathan Gauthier, Shawmut Design & Construction. The course focuses on the impact of the built environment on people and demonstrates how green buildings can improve occupants’ health, comfort, and productivity. For more information, [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 & City Hall Annex. 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. Second day is a hands-on session and is optional.
- **Climate Preparedness in Massachusetts** – January 25, 5:30-6:00 pm, MIT. Speakers: Peter Detwiler, Forbes.com & NorthBridge Energy Partners; Neil Gerber, director, New Energy & Environment, IBM; Brad Swing, City of Boston; Maryrose Sylvester, President/CEO, Current: Powered by IBM; Julie Wormser,

Boston Harbor Now. Registration fee applies. For more information, [click here](#). Sponsored by MIT Enterprise Forum.

- **GWSA Regulations Public Hearings** – November 2 through 7. Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection is holding public hearings on proposed regulations under the Global Warming Solutions Act to achieve the goal of reducing GHG emissions by 25% below 1990 levels by 2020. For more information, [click here](#).
- **BuildingEnergy 2017** – March 7-9, Seaport World Trade Center, Boston. [BuildingEnergy](#) is the annual New England conference of the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association.
- **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

- **Harvard Hits GHG Target** – Harvard University announced it achieved its goal to reduce campus greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent below 2006 levels by 2016. In its [report](#), Harvard details the path it took to achieve the reductions: 24% energy building energy demand reduction; 33% on-site district energy supply improvements; 16% decarbonization of the regional electric grid; 19% local renewable energy purchases; and 8% improved refrigerant tracking and management. The 30 percent GHG emissions reduction was achieved in spite of an expansion of 3 million square feet of space and some increased energy intensity inherently associated with research and laboratories. Not accounting for growth, the emissions reduction was about 40 percent. Harvard is now working to set new climate commitments. A climate change task force chaired by Business School Professor Rebecca Henderson, Kennedy School Professor Bill Clark, and Executive Vice President Katie Lapp will deliver recommendations to President Drew Faust in the spring. [[Harvard Gazette, 12/8/16](#)]
- **Clean Energy Jobs in MA Top 100,000** – The clean energy sector in Massachusetts now employs more than 100,000 people for the first time and generated \$11.8 billion of economic activity in 2015 according to the [Massachusetts Clean Energy Center](#). There were 105,212 clean energy jobs at 6,714 establishments in the state. The Center also reported that more than 70 percent of clean energy workers

earn \$50,000 or more annually, which is above the statewide median wage of \$45,573. [[Boston Business Journal, 12/15/16](#)]

- **MA Energy Storage Targets** – The Baker Administration announced it's intent to set energy storage targets for electrical utilities. Under energy legislation passed last summer, the Department of Energy Resources was given the discretion to set cost-effective energy storage targets for utilities to be achieved by January 2020. DOER is conducting a public comment process to be completed by January 27th on a variety of policies to encourage the cost-effective deployment of energy storage systems. Earlier DOER announced a \$10 million program to fund about 15 energy storage projects that could create 5 megawatts of storage. [[Worcester Business Journal, 12/27/16](#)]
- **Chelsea Activists Join CLF's Exxon Everett Oil Facility Suit** – Activists in Chelsea have joined a suit brought by the Conservation Law Foundation against Exxon Mobil for its failure to adapt the Everett oil terminal on the Island End River that separates Everett and Chelsea for increased precipitation, rising sea levels, and storm surges that will be exacerbated by climate change. This is a first of its kind lawsuit that alleges that the company has not prepared for conditions that its own scientists have affirmed will occur. [[Boston Globe, 1/3/17](#)]

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **Climate Ready Boston** – The [Climate Ready Boston](#) report on the city's climate change vulnerabilities and resilience strategies was released in December.
- **Achieving Urban Resilience: Washington DC** – Consulting firm Capital-E prepared a very extensive cost-benefit analysis about how green infrastructure can create greater urban resilience for the District of Columbia. The report is called [Achieve Urban Resilience](#).
- **How Trump Can Influence Climate Change** – The New York Times published an [interactive graphic](#), based on the work of MIT-based Climate Interactive, explaining how the incoming Trump Administration could influence global greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Tri-State SLR Vulnerability** – The Regional Plan Association issued [this report](#) on the vulnerability of the New York-New Jersey-Connecticut area to sea level rise and permanent inundation.
- **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](#).
- **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.