

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

March 2017

MEETING: The Climate Protection Action Committee will meet on March 9, 6:00 pm at City Hall , Sullivan Chamber, 2nd floor. Note the meeting is not being held at the usual location at City Hall Annex. This meeting will focus on 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

- **NAS Climate Change & Public Health Roundtable** – March 13, 8:30-5:30 pm, webcast and in Washington, DC. The National Academy of Sciences is sponsoring a [Roundtable on Protecting the Health & Wellbeing of Communities in a Changing Climate](#). The roundtable will present plenary speakers and four regional panels on climate change risks to communities and examples of responses on issues such as urban heat islands, food supply, health care delivery, social vulnerability and equity, and other topics. The tentative agenda is posted, so times for the various topics can be checked for webcast viewers.
- **Multi-Family Energy Efficiency Workshop** – March 14, 1:00-3:00 pm, City Hall Annex. The Compact for a Sustainable Future is holding an energy efficiency workshop for multifamily residential building *owners and property managers*. The workshop has been organized by Homeowner’s Rehab, Inc., which is a member of the Compact. For more information, contact Veena Dharmaraj, vdharmaraj@cambridgema.gov.
- **MBTA Focus40 Public Meeting** – March 15, 5:00-8:00 pm, MIT Media Lab. This public meeting is part of the MBTA’s process to develop the Focus40 Plan which will layout a capital investment strategy to improve the public transit system. The MBTA has received over 3,000 ideas so far and will discuss these and next steps at the public meeting. For more information, see the [Focus40 website](#).
- **7th MA SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE** - March 17, Endicott College, Beverly. THEME: *Sustainability by Land & Sea: Advancing Sustainability in Communities and on Campuses*. TRACKS: Communities & Campuses, Energy Trends, Coastal & Climate Resilience, Career Exploration & Advancement, Citizens Engaged, and Campus Trends. Early bird discount 'til 2/17. For more information and to register, [click here](#).
- **Cambridge Science Festival** – April 14-23, across the city. This the annual celebration of science and technology. Many climate change events and activities are part of the program. For more information, [click here](#).
- **March for Science** – April 22, Washington DC. Supporters of scientific research and evidence-based policies will demonstrate on Earth Day on the National Mall in Washington DC and at satellite events. The [Boston rally](#) will take place on Boston Common, 2:00 to 4:00 pm. For more information, [click here](#).
- **National Adaptation Forum** – May 9-11, 2017, St. Paul, Minnesota. For more information, [click here](#).
- **I2SL Annual Conference** – October 15-18, Boston Marriott Copley Place. The [annual conference of the International Institute for Sustainable Laboratories](#) will be held in Boston this year.
- **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

- **[Green Infrastructure Survey](#) - Help guide the design of Green Streets in Cambridge!** What types of greening and roadway improvements do you envision for the streets of Cambridge? The Charles River Watershed Association and the City of Cambridge want to know. If you are a Cambridge resident, [please fill out the quick, 8 questions survey](#) to let CRWA and the City know which green designs you would like to see for Cambridge's residential streets. The City of Cambridge has partnered with CRWA to incorporate green infrastructure into dense urban streets. Green infrastructure is an approach to water management that protects, restores, or mimics the natural water cycle. In the first phase of the project, the team will develop conceptual Green Street designs for three Cambridge streets: Webster Avenue, Park Avenue, and Chestnut Street. By incorporating street trees, plant based treatment systems, and alternative roadway designs, Green Streets slow car traffic, enhance the neighborhood aesthetic, and improve local rivers and streams. In the second phase, CRWA will make recommendations for designing Green Streets city-wide. The Cambridge Green Streets project will demonstrate how cities and towns across the region can include green infrastructure techniques as a routine component of roadway improvement projects, and as a way to improve the quality of life in our urban communities.
- **[Cambridge Vulnerability Assessment Part 2 Report](#)** – The [summary report for the Cambridge Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment \(CCVA\) Part 2](#) has been posted. Two technical reports will follow shortly. CCVA Part 2 covers the risks to Cambridge from rising sea levels and coastal storm surges. It complements the Part 1 report which focused on risks from increasing temperatures and precipitation. With this report, the vulnerability assessment is formally complete, although the City will monitor developments in science and information and revisit the assessment as appropriate. The City has begun work on the Climate Change Preparedness and Resilience (CCPR) Plan which is using the CCVA as a technical foundation. The CCPR Plan is starting with a focus on the Alewife area, which is projected to be exposed to greater flood risk. A second neighborhood focus will follow and then the work will be folded up into a citywide preparedness plan. While the plan is being developed, the City is pursuing actions to advance preparedness in the mean time. Some information about these activities is described on the revamped project webpage.

- **Envision Cambridge Mobile Engagement Data** – The community feedback to the Envision Cambridge mobile engagement station is now available in an [online viewer](#) and in the City’s Open Data Portal. The feedback consists of what people currently like, what they dislike, and their desires for the future.
- **US GHG Emissions Continue Decline** – A [draft report](#) from the US EPA indicates that US greenhouse gas emissions continued to decline through 2015. Total US GHG emissions in 2015 were 6,486.2 million metric tons CO₂e. Emissions declined 3.4 percent between 1990 and 2015 and by 2.2 percent between 2014 and 2015. The GHG inventory is prepared and reported under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which the US ratified in 1992.

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **Increasing Tidal Flooding on East Coast** – The Union of Concerned Scientists published its analysis of increased tidal flooding along the East and Gulf Coasts in the journal [PLOS One](#). The study found that the frequency of tidal flooding has increased since the 1950s and is projected to increase further by 2030 and 2045.
- **Louisville UHI & Faith Community** – Louisville, KY is the nation’s fastest warming urban heat island. The city government, the faith community through the Center for Interfaith Relations, and The Nature Conservancy are working together to address this problem through tools such as a landscape audit. [\[Citylab, 2/13/17\]](#)
- **Cambridge Recycling News** - 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.
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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.