

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

April 2017

MEETING: The Climate Protection Action Committee will meet on April 13, 6:00 pm at City Hall Annex, 2nd floor. This meeting will focus on the Net Zero Action Plan annual report and the progress report for the Climate Change Goals & Objectives. The agenda for the meeting will be posted on the [Community Development Department website](#).

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **Alewife Climate Preparedness** – April 12, 6:00-8:00 pm, Russell Youth & Community Center, 680 Huron Avenue, Community Room. This is a public meeting to hear about how climate change could impact the Alewife/Fresh Pond area and contribute to the City's Climate Change Preparedness & Resilience Plan. For more information about the climate change vulnerability assessment and the preparedness plan process, see the [project website](#). For questions, contact John Bolduc, jbolduc@cambridgema.gov, 617-349-4628.
- **Mass Turnpike Realignment** – April 13, 6:30-8:30 pm, Morse School, 40 Granite St. Cambridge's I-90 Committee will host a City-wide public meeting about the realignment of I-90, just across the river in Allston, slated to begin in 2019. This \$460+ million, 5-year project has the potential to dramatically improve the lives of Allston, Brighton and Cambridge residents. MassDOT will address Cambridge concerns about the project at the meeting, including traffic and access, noise, visual impact and impact on the river environment during and after construction. They will present the three plans for the realignment of the turnpike and evaluate how each will affect Cambridge. For some background, [click here](#).
- **Sustainability Night at Venture Café** – April 13, 3:00-8:00 pm. Various talks, demonstrations, and tables on sustainability topics. For a list, [click here](#).
- **Gina McCarthy** – April 19, 7:30 pm, Alumnae Lounge, 40 Talbot Ave., Tufts University. Gina McCarthy, the preceding Administrator of the US Environmental Protection Agency, will speak on "The Future of Environmental Protection". For more information, [click here](#).
- **Cambridge Science Festival** – April 14-23, across the city. This is the annual celebration of science and technology. Many climate change events and activities are part of the program. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Age of Consequences** – April 18, 6:00-9:00 pm, Tisch Library, Room 304, 35 Professors Row, Tufts University. In honor of Earth Month, Tufts University is screening the documentary film [The Age of Consequences](#) followed by a panel discussion. The event is FREE to the public and there will also be food. Presented by Tufts Eco-Representatives Program. For more information, [click here](#). Please RSVP on the Facebook site.
- **Harvard Earth Month Events** – A [full calendar](#) of "Earth Day" events are scheduled at Harvard through April. Featured events include: [Collapse the Distance: A Climate Change Storytelling Project](#) (photography exhibit); [This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs the Climate with Naomi Klein](#), April 19, 4:00 pm (free but tickets required); [Defending the Climate in the Trumppocene with David Doniger](#), NRDC, April 26, 12:00 pm; [Human Health in a Changing Climate](#), keynote with Gina McCarthy and panel, April 27, 9:00 am; [Achieving Harvard's Science-based Climate Goal](#), with Heather Henriksen, Harvard director of sustainability, April 28, 12:00 pm.

- **Park(ing) Day Open House** – April 19, 4:00-7:00 pm, City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway, 4th floor conference room. This is an informational drop-in session to learn how to host a Park(ing) Day spot. Spots need to be registered by June 16th to be included in the International Park(ing) Day event that will be held September 15th. For more information, [click here](#).
- **MIT Earth Day Celebration** - Saturday, April 22nd, 9am-12pm, Kresge Oval 48 Mass Ave, *This event is family-friendly and open to the public.* Get outside and celebrate Earth Day! Learn about the environment and how we impact our planet through hands-on, interactive activities for all ages. The event features activities ranging from virtual reality climate simulations to making smoothies on a blender bike to modeling your own stream! Drop by, have some fun, and appreciate our home planet. Participating MIT groups include: UA Sustainability; GSC Sustainability; Sea Grant; Before It's Too Late (BITL); Center for Mobile Learning; the Architecture Department; the MIT Earth, Atmosphere and Planetary Sciences Department; and the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department. You can check out and share the Facebook event [here](#).
- **Bob Inglis: How Free Enterprise Can Solve Climate Change**, Tuesday, April 25th, 4-6pm, MIT Media Lab E14-633, 75 Amherst St, *This event is open to the public.* Join ESI for a dynamic presentation by former Congressman Bob Inglis (R-SC), founder of **RepublicEn**, in the second installment of our 2017 People & the Planet Lecture Series. Inglis will describe how free enterprise and a "tax swap" can deliver the innovation to solve our climate change issues and lead the rest of the world. You can check out and share the Facebook event [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](#).
- **Multifamily Energy Efficiency Workshop** – April 25, 1:00-2:00 pm, City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway, 2nd floor conference room. Organized by the Compact for a Sustainable Future, Eversource, City of Cambridge, and Homeowner's Rehab, Inc. Come learn about incentives for lighting upgrades, heating upgrades, insulation/air sealing, energy and water management tools, air source heat pumps, and solar energy. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Hubway Basics Workshop** – April 26, 6:00-7:00 pm, City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway, 4th floor conference room. Workshop on urban cycling and the basics of the Hubway bike sharing system. For more information, [click here](#).
- **MIT Sustainability Summit** – April 28, MIT Sloan Building (E52), Samberg Conference Center. This is the annual conference organized by MIT students. This year's theme is "Funding the Future". For more information and to register, [click here](#).
- **National Adaptation Forum** – May 9-11, 2017, St. Paul, Minnesota. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Park(ing) Day** – September 15. The international event when people take over car parking spaces for a day.
- **Clinton Global Initiative University** – October 13-15, Northeastern University. The event brings together over 1,100 students to make a difference in five focus areas, including the environment and climate change. The deadline to sign up is May 1. 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

- **\$1 million in Harvard Funding for Climate Research** – The Harvard Climate Change Solutions Fund awarded \$1 million in grants to multidisciplinary research projects at the university to help foster the development of innovative solutions to climate change. The fund was started by President Drew Faust in 2014 as part of Harvard's climate change initiative. The projects cover carbon free energy system for China; fact-based fiction writing imagining life in a carbon-free future; emissions-reducing policies under the Paris climate agreement; using drones to identify the types and amounts of volatile organic compounds emitted by the Amazon rainforest; solutions to hazardous environmental practices in the pharmaceutical and biomass industries; using the campus dining halls as living laboratories to study the impacts of dietary choices on the environment; and the construction of a bionic leaf to reduce carbon emissions and make greater use of solar energy. [[Harvard Magazine, 3/6/17](#)]
- **MIT Climate Research Fund** – The MIT Office of Sustainability has launched a Campus Sustainability Incubator Fund. The fund supports university community members in using the campus as a test bed for research in sustainable operations, management, and design. The MIT sustainability office is inviting its community to develop solutions for a low carbon future, high performance design, resilient ecosystems, zero waste, and other challenges. [[MIT Office of Sustainability, 3/15/17](#)]
- **HRI Earns LEED Platinum for Allston Street Project** - Homeowner's Rehab, Inc., one of Cambridge's affordable housing developers, has received a LEED Platinum certification – the high possible level – from the US Green Building Council for the redevelopment of the residential property at [151-157 Allston Street](#). The property was damaged by a fire. The project features a very tight building envelope; solar hot water; a 9.81 solar photovoltaic system; recycled materials in building products including flyash in concrete mixes; a stormwater retention tank to slow runoff; a boiler with a 95% efficiency rating; as well as other green features.
- **House Republicans File Climate Solutions Resolution** – 17 House Republicans backed a resolution supporting action on climate change. The resolution is largely symbolic but is meant to start a conversation in Congress about climate change. The effort was led by Representatives Elise Stefanik (NY), Carlos Curbelo (FL), and Ryan Costello (PA). These leaders are also part of the bipartisan [Climate Solutions Caucus](#). [[E&E News, 3/15/17](#)]
- **Global Energy Carbon Emissions Remain Flat, Atmospheric CO2 Concentration Accelerates** - The [International Energy Agency](#) (IEA) found that global carbon dioxide emissions remained flat for a third straight year in 2016 even as the global economy grew. IEA attributed this trend to increasing renewable energy generation, fuel switching from coal to natural gas, energy efficiency improvements, and global

economic changes. However, the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reported that the concentration of atmospheric CO2 continues to rise at an accelerated rate. At the [Mauna Loa observatory](#), CO2 concentration was measured at over 407 parts per million in March 2017. [NOAA also reported](#) that during 2015, atmospheric CO2 jumped 3.05 ppm which as the largest year-to-year increase in 56 years of research. [[Washington Post, 3/13/17](#)]

- **US Public Opinion About Climate Change** – The [2016 Yale Climate Opinion Maps](#) were released showing belief in climate science and support for action in ways and places that might not be intuitive. The polling found that 69% of Americans support restricting carbon emissions from coal power plants and that in every congressional district there was at least 50% support for this position. Most Americans also think climate change will harm the US population, but they don't believe it will harm themselves. [[New York Times, 3/21/17](#)]
- **Dr. Moniz Returns to MIT** – Dr. Ernest Moniz, who was the preceding Secretary of Energy, has returned to MIT. He will serve as a part-time professor of physics post-tenure and special advisor to the president of MIT. Moniz also has a position as a non-resident senior fellow at the Harvard University Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. [[MIT News, 3/17/17](#)]
- **Mass. GHG Emissions Continue Decline** – Massachusetts Greenhouse Gas Emissions have continued to decline. Compared to 1990, GHG emissions in the Commonwealth were 21 percent lower in 2014. Under the Global Warming Solutions Act, the commonwealth has a goal to reduce emissions by 25 percent below 1990 levels by 2020 and 80 percent by 2050. The data on Massachusetts' progress is on the [Global Warming Solutions Act dashboard](#).

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **Job** – The Massachusetts Chapter of the US Green Building Council is seeking an [Executive Director](#).
- **Brookline Heat Vulnerability Study** – Through the Thriving Earth Exchange program of the American Geophysical Union, Northeastern University researchers have produced a report and recommendations for the Town of Brookline on mitigating heat vulnerability. The report is [Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Public Impacts of Heatwaves for Town of Brookline, MA](#).
- **Solar+Storage for Low & Moderate Income Communities** – Clean Energy States Alliance produced a new report on [Solar+Storage for Low- and Moderate-Income Communities: A Guide for States and Municipalities](#).
- **Green Streets Public Health Assessment** – The American Planning Association Sustainable Communities Division produced a comprehensive public health impact assessment on the benefits of street trees in Lawrence, MA. The report is titled [Green Streets: A Health Impact Assessment of the Lawrence Green Streets Program](#).
- **Environment & Discovery Museum Opens** – E-Inc has opened the [Environment Science Discovery & Action Museum](#) in Charlestown. It features a traveling exhibit on Weather & Climate: Understanding Our Changing World.
- **Reasons to Be Hopeful About Climate** – Drew Jones of Climate Interactive, the nonprofit that grew out of MIT and uses systems thinking to help understand climate change, give his [top 10 reasons to be hopeful about climate change in this engaging video](#).
- **Roadmap for Rapid Decarbonization** – Science article (March 24, 2017 issue) proposing [A Roadmap for Rapid Decarbonization](#).
- **Energy Switch** – The Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities has a website to help consumers shop for a competitive electricity supply called [Energy Switch Massachusetts](#).
- **Nature-based Solutions** – Naturally Resilient Communities created a [new website](#) compiling nature-based solutions and case studies for flood mitigation and climate change.

- **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.

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.