

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

September 2017

MEETING: The Climate Protection Action Committee will meet in on September 14th, 6:00 pm at City Hall Annex, 2nd floor. The agenda focus is on the forthcoming Cambridge Sustainability Dashboard and also green infrastructure modeling. The agenda for the meeting will be posted on the [Community Development Department website](#).

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **Envision Cambridge Advisory Committee** – September 13, 6:00 to 8:00 pm, Citywide Senior Center, 806 Mass. Ave., Ballroom. The draft [Envision Cambridge](#) goals, strategies, and actions will be presented and discussed.
- **Ellen Douglas at NEAQ** - September 14, 7:00 pm, New England Aquarium Simons IMAX Theatre. [Extreme Events & Climate Change: What We Know and What We Can Do](#). *Speaker:* Ellen Douglas, PE, PhD, Associate Professor of Hydrology, School for the Environment, UMass Boston.
- **EV Test Drives** – September 16, 11 am to 4 pm, Danehy Park. To celebrate National Drive Electric Week, Drive Electric Cars New England will host an EV ride and drive event during Danehy Park Day. New 2018 EV models will be displayed. EV and Plug-in EV owners will be present to share their experiences. To register for the event, [click here](#).
- **Johan Rockstrom** – September 19, 4:00 to 6:00 pm, MIT, Room 10-250. *Speaker:* Johan Rockstrom, director of the Stockholm Resilience Centre at Stockholm University; co-developer of the concept of planetary boundaries. *Topic:* People and the Planet: Individuals Advancing a Humane and Sustainable Future. Free, but must [register here](#).
- **Internal Carbon Pricing** – September 21, 4:00-5:30 pm, BU Metcalfe Trustee Center, 1 Silber Way, 9th floor, Boston. Panel on how Yale University and Microsoft are using internal carbon pricing to reduce GHG emissions. *Speakers:* Liz Wilmott, Microsoft; Casey Pickett, Yale University; Kenneth Pucker, Boston University; Andrew Revkin, ProPublica, moderator. [For more information and to register, click here](#).
- **NU Energy Conference** – September 29, Curry Center, Northeastern University. For program and registration information, [click here](#).
- **Planning for Net Zero** – October 11, 8:30 am – 1:00 pm, District Hall, Boston. The MAPC Clean Energy Forum will focus on cities planning for net zero. For more information and to register, [click here](#).
- **Green Innovation Industry Night** – October 11, 4:00-8:00 pm, Venture Café, 5th floor, Cambridge Innovation Center, One Broadway. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Climate & Energy Executive Course** – October 15-20; Harvard Kennedy School. Executive Education course on [Climate Change and Energy: Policy Making for the Long Term](#). Application deadline is August 15th; course fee is \$8,500.
- **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. The conference will feature a panel about the initiatives underway in Cambridge and Boston to increase the energy efficiency of our laboratory buildings.

- **Passive House Massachusetts Symposium** – October 25, District Hall, Boston. For more information and to register, [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. NOTE THE EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO SEPTEMBER 29. For more information and to register, [click here](#).
- **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. During the summer of 2017, meetings will be held at Harvard Epworth Church, 1555 Mass. Avenue in the sanctuary, 7:00-9:00 pm, on July 18 and August 1, 15, and 29 (no meeting on July 11). Note this meeting location is temporary while the usual meeting location at First Church undergoes some renovation work.
- **Green Cambridge** - [Green Cambridge](#) works to bring neighborhood resiliency to individuals and communities across Cambridge by empowering individuals to embrace renewable energy, practice urban agriculture, care for our urban tree canopy, and utilize sustainable transportation. Green Cambridge meets monthly at the Eastern Bank community room in Harvard Square, usually on the third Thursday of every month from 7:00-8:30pm. All are welcome and invited to attend! For more information and a listing of community events, including volunteer opportunities at our prototype urban farm, please visit: greencambridge.org.

NEWS

- **City Receives \$250K for Energy Efficiency** – The Massachusetts Green Communities Program awarded a [\\$250,000 grant to the City of Cambridge](#) to support energy efficiency upgrades at the Lombardi Office Building, which houses Inspectional Services, IT, and the Historic Commission, and also to retrofit municipal vehicles with hybrid technology to reduce fuel use. Two maintenance vans, a shuttle bus, and a trash truck will be converted to hybrid drive systems. Cambridge was designated a Green Community by the Commonwealth in 2010 by meeting the Green Community Program criteria, which makes the City eligible for certain clean energy grants.
- **DEP Finalizes Global Warming Regulations** – The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection [finalized regulations under the Global Warming Solutions Act](#). The regulations were prompted by a 2016 decision by the Supreme Judicial Court that required DEP to promulgate regulations that set greenhouse gas emission limits for each year and set the limits on a declining basis so that the state could reach the 2020 target to reduce statewide emissions by 25% below 1990 levels. Governor Baker issued an Executive Order which directed the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to bolster climate change mitigation and resilience efforts and the DEP to promulgate the regulations. EOEEA subsequently established a new position to coordinate climate change policy and implementation. Katie Theoharides was appointed to that position and was recently elevated to Assistant Secretary for Climate Change.
- **RGGI Lowers Power Plant Carbon Cap** – The nine northeastern states, including Massachusetts, that participate in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) agreed to cut greenhouse gas emissions from powerplants by another 30 percent from 2020 to 2030. This would result in a lowering of powerplant

GHG emissions by 65 percent compared to 2009 levels when RGGI was launched. [[Boston Globe, 8/23/17](#)]

- **Post Harvey Resilience Help** – The [American Society of Adaptation Professionals](#) (ASAP) is partnering with the [Houston Advanced Research Center](#) to coordinate and deliver resilience resources, knowledge, and assistance to the Houston area post-Harvey. If you want to join the effort or know of an approach, individual, or institution ASAP should contact, please complete the [Post-Harvey Resilience Resources Intake form](#).
- **Boston Harbor Barriers** – Efforts are underway to assess the feasibility of constructing barriers in Boston Harbor to protect the region, including Cambridge, from sea level rise and storm surges. UMass Boston is conducting the major study on three barrier options. There is also a concept being advocated by the Boston Society of Architects for a barrier further out that would run from Gloucester to Scituate. All of these barrier ideas involve major ecological, financial, and logistical challenges. [[WBUR, 9/6/17](#)]

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **You Can Fix It** – Climate Interactive and the MIT Sloan School published an interactive [op-ed piece in the New York Times](#). The op-ed explains the concept of a carbon budget and challenges the reader to find emission reduction scenarios to keep the world within a carbon budget that would limit global warming to 2 degrees Celsius. The tool shows the stock and flows nature of the climate change problem.
- **Top 10 Green Roofs in Massachusetts** – The Massachusetts Chapter of the US Green Building Council lists their [top 10 green roofs in the state](#).
- **NACTO Urban Street Stormwater Guide** – The National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) released their [Urban Street Stormwater Guide](#).
- **Climigration** – The Consensus Building Institute has started a project to facilitate the difficult conversation about when its right to move away from climate risks such as sea level rise. An online tool called [Climigration](#) has been set up to support the project.
- **lobby** – [lobby](#) is a crowd-resourcing platform to connect neighborhood leaders and citizens with funding and resources to make lives better and more sustainable.
- **Biggest Carbon Polluters** – Researchers at the Union of Concerned Scientists, the University of Oxford, and North Carolina State University published an [article in the journal Climatic Change](#) documenting that 90 percent of historical greenhouse gas emissions from human activities can be attributed to the products and operations of just 90 companies. [[Inside Climate News, 9/11/17](#)]
- **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 Preparedness & Resilience** – The City its climate change vulnerability assessment that is serving as the foundation for a climate change preparedness plan that is being developed. The CCVA Report – Part 1 covers the risks of increasing temperatures and precipitation and CCVA Report – Part 2 focuses on the risks of sea level rise and storm surges. Both reports are available on the [CCPR project webpage](#), which also provides other information and documents from meetings. The CCPR Plan development has started with a focus on the Alewife area. After a second neighborhood is studied, the full plan will be developed with a goal of completion in 2018. Interested people can send an email to jboulduc@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 jbalduc@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.