

# Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

## CPAC BULLETIN

### May 2017

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**MEETING:** The Climate Protection Action Committee will meet on May 11, 6:00 pm at City Hall Annex, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. This meeting will focus on community aggregation, GHG inventory and climate action plan; and the climate change goals and objectives. The agenda for the meeting will be posted on the [Community Development Department website](#).

#### EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **Envision Cambridge Working Groups –Economy**, May 8, 9:00-11:30 am, 344 Broadway, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Community Room; **Climate & Environment**, May 8, 6:00-8:30 pm, Police Station, 125 Sixth St., First Floor Conference Room; **Housing**, May 18, 6:00-8:30 pm, Citywide Senior Center, 806 Mass. Ave. These are topic specific working groups to advise the [Envision Cambridge Plan](#).
- **Urban-Life Hacks** – May 9, 7:00-10:00 pm, Lobby 13, MIT. MIT Terrascope students will display and explain their appropriate technology designs for making cities more sustainable. For more information, [click here](#).
- **BASG** – June 6, 6:00-8:30 pm, Venture Café, One Broadway. *Cleaning the Air: Carbon & Health* is the topic for the monthly meeting of the Boston Area Sustainability Group. Speakers are Jonathan Buonocore, Harvard School of Public Health and Dr. Brita Lundberg, Mass. Medical Society, Environmental & Occupational Health Commission, and Green Newton. For more information, [click here](#).
- **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](#).
- **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 15<sup>th</sup>; 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.
- **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](http://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

- **Cambridge Launches Adopt a Tree Program** – The Public Works Department has launched an [Adopt-a-Tree Program](#). Residents can choose a street tree and commit to watering it and tending to the tree pit. An interactive map is used to allow residents to locate and select a public street tree and make the adoption. The map identifies the location and species of tree. Tree canopy is an important tool in addressing the impacts of climate change.
- **New CCVA Reports** – The City has posted the final reports and documents for the Cambridge Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA). Two technical reports to accompany the CCVA Part 2 summary report on sea level rise and storm surge flooding are available. CCVA Part 1, which focuses on the risk from increasing temperatures and precipitation, has been updated with revised precipitation flood risk maps. The new maps reflect refinement of the precipitation flood modeling which now integrates riverine and piped infrastructure hydrology to produce more accurate results. The revisions primarily affect the Alewife area. Illustrations of flood depths at four locations in the Alewife area from FEMA flood insurance maps, CCVA precipitation events, and sea level rise/storm surge are also posted to help visualize the impact of flooding. Cambridge's first vulnerability assessment is completed, but the City expects it will be necessary to revisit the assessment as new information becomes available. The process to develop a Climate Change Preparedness and Resilience (CCPR) Plan is now underway, with an initial focus on the Alewife/Fresh Pond area. The City is working to issue a draft CCPR Alewife document for public review by August and hold a public meeting in September. In the fall, the CCPR process will move onto The Port before developing a citywide CCPR Plan by the end of 2018. The presentation for the April 12<sup>th</sup> CCPR Alewife/Fresh Pond public meeting has also been posted. All of the new information is available on the [CCPR webpage](#).
- **Spring Showers Bring Limited Time Offer on Rain Barrels** - Capture the rainwater from your roof and store it in a rain barrel for later use in your garden. If rainwater is not captured and allowed to soak back into the ground, rivers and streams do not have the chance to sustain or "recharge" themselves. By capturing rainwater, you are reducing stormwater runoff, conserving water and recharging the groundwater. A 60-gallon rainwater collection system is available to employees and residents for \$69. This offer is valid until May 27. To provide the lowest cost, the company is arranging for a general delivery of the rain barrels on Thursday, June 1, from 4:30 -7:00 pm, at Cambridge DPW yard, 147 Hampshire St. A local non-profit agency, [Green Cambridge](#) is offering to install rain barrels for Cambridge residents free of charge. If you prefer to install them yourself, the rain barrel arrives with simple instructions for fast and easy installation. For more information, to order online and to check out the design and variety of color options, visit The [Great American Rain Barrel Company website](#) and select "Massachusetts" and "Cambridge" under [Shop Community Programs](#). You can also order by phone (800) 251-2352 toll free and specify the City of Cambridge promotion.
- **2016 Harvard Sustainability Report** – Harvard University released its 2016 Sustainability Report. The online, graphical report covers a broad range of indicators. Highlights include a 30% GHG reduction with campus growth between 2006 and 2016 with details on the sources of emissions and reductions. Harvard now has 1.2 megawatts of onsite solar PV (including outside Cambridge); has 149 LEED green building projects; has reduced its water use by 24% since 2006; reduced its per capital trash by 43% since 2006; 86% of Cambridge/Allston commuters use sustainable transportation options to get to work; and has 10

green roofs across campus, some of which produce vegetables. To see all the accomplishments, visit the [2016 Harvard Sustainability Report website](#).

- **Partners Healthcare Invests in Windpower** – Partners Healthcare, which includes Massachusetts General and Brigham & Women’s hospitals and has facilities in Cambridge, is investing in a wind farm being built in Antrim, NH by a New York based developer. The investment will help Partners reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 110 million pounds annually. Partners has a goal to be powered 100 percent by renewable energy by 2025. [[Boston Globe, 4/14/17](#)]

## RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **Job – Environmental Planner**, Metropolitan Area Planning Council.
- **Commercial Air Source Heat Pump Rebates** – The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center has launched new commercial air source heat pump rebates. For large scale VRF systems, rebates range between \$180,000 to \$250,000. Rebates for small scale mini-split systems range between \$12,000 and \$30,000. For commercial mini-split systems, the rebates go up to \$93,750 or up to \$225,000 for affordable housing.
- **How Cool is Uchimizu** – Uchimizu is a Japanese practice of sprinkling water on ground surfaces to control dust and to cool temperatures. Delft University student Anna Solcerova is researching how much cooling effect this could have in urban areas. She says it works and emphasizes that potable water shouldn’t be used for this purpose. See her research on the [How Cool is Uchimizu website](#). [[Pacific Standard](#)]
- **Surplus Food Tool** – [Food for All](#) is a new online tool that enables users to buy food that restaurants do not sell by the end of the day at a steep discount. The tool can also be used to donate food.
- **NYC Preliminary Resilience Design Guidelines** – New York City has issued preliminary [Climate Resiliency Design Guidelines](#). [[InsideClimate News, 5/3/17](#)]
- **Nightmare Scenario for Florida Real Estate** – The [Nightmare Scenario for Florida’s Coastal Homeowners](#) is an interesting article in Bloomberg News about how sea level rise is affecting the real estate market, even before flooding reaches properties.
- **Mosquitos and Climate Change** – [Why the Menace of Mosquitoes Will Only Get Worse](#) is an article in the New York Times Magazine about how climate change is increasing the potential for mosquito-borne diseases like Zika.
- **List of Zero Net Energy Buildings** – New Building Institute issued its [2016 List of Zero Net Energy Buildings](#).
- **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 [jbolduc@cambridgema.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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.