

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

July 2016

MEETING: The next meeting of the Climate Protection Action Committee is scheduled for Thursday, July 14, 6:00 pm, City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway. The focus of this month's meeting is on the Net Zero Action Plan and the recommendation for establishing a solar ready requirement. The agenda for the meeting will be posted on the [Community Development Department website](#).

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **Envision Cambridge Alewife Visioning** – July 21, 6:30-8:30 pm, Tobin School Cafeteria, 197 Vassal Lane. [For more information, click here.](#)
- **Boston's Climate Vulnerabilities & Solutions** – September 15, Federal Reserve Bank, Boston. Presented by A Better City and Boston Green Ribbon Commission. Symposium on latest climate projections, technological solutions, and panel discussions. 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. Free wildlife and history educational tours, clean ups and conservation initiatives for the silver maple forest. "Virtual" Tour of the Reservation: [click here.](#)
- **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

- **Participatory Budgeting** – The City's Participatory Budgeting process is seeking ideas on how to spend \$700,000 on capital improvement projects to benefit the community. Ideas will be accepted until July 31st. Environmental projects are eligible. Last year, participatory budget funds were spent on tree planting and bike share stations. For more information about the project guidelines and how to submit an idea, [visit the Participatory Budgeting website.](#)
- **Energy Bill** – The Massachusetts Senate passed an "omnibus" energy bill on July 1. The House of Representatives previously passed their own bill, so now the table is set for the different bills to be reconciled in conference committee. The House bill largely focused on requiring utilities to enter into long term

contracts for 1200 megawatts of offshore wind energy (although it would preclude Cape Wind) plus other renewables. The House did include provisions that would enable the creation of commercial and residential property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing programs that have been successful in other states. The Senate bill goes further, except it did not include PACE. The Senate bill would require utilities to contract for 2,000 MW of offshore wind energy, establish a home energy labeling system, require gas companies to repair non-hazardous gas leaks, and require the state to develop an energy plan every 3 years. The Senate would also prevent utilities from charging electric customers to pay for new gas pipeline infrastructure. [[Berkshire Eagle, 7/1/16](#)]

- **Take MBTA's Focus40 Survey** – The MBTA, which is developing a 25 year capital investment plan, would like to know what the public thinks its investment priorities should be for bus, rapid transit, commuter rail, ferry, and The Ride. To let the T know, you can fill out the [Focus40 Transit Priorities Survey](#).

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **PACE & Commercial Property** – PACENation has issued a report on [The Benefits of PACE Financing for Commercial Real Estate Companies](#).
- **Value of Trees** – A [new paper in Urban Forest & Urban Greening](#), studied recent street tree inventory data from 50 communities in California. The number of street trees increased between 1988 and 2014 but street tree density declined. The estimated asset value was a total of \$2.49 billion for 929,823 trees. About \$1 billion in annual ecosystem services were provided, or about \$110.63 per tree. Given an annual per tree management cost of \$19, each tree returned \$5.82 of annual benefit for every dollar spent. [[FastCo, 6/27/16](#)]
- **CBECS** – ACEEE looked at the recently released Commercial Building Energy Consumption Survey (CBECS) data released by the U.S. Department of Energy, which had not released similar data since 2003. Between 2003 and 2012, energy use per square foot was down 12%. The decrease was due to greater efficiency in space heating, but also reflects higher growth in building floor area in the south where less heating is required. Some building energy end-uses increased, including energy use for computers, office equipment, and “other” uses. Energy use for cooking and refrigeration was also up while use for cooling and ventilation was up modestly. [[ACEEE, 7/1/16](#)]
- **Energy Efficiency Financing for Retail Sector** – The Retail Industry Leaders Association, Institute for Market Transformation, and U.S. Department of Energy have created a set of financial management resources for energy efficiency projects in the retail sector, including an energy efficiency finance calculator and primers on energy efficiency. [[IMT, 6/17/16](#)]
- **Preventing Heat Related Deaths from Climate Change** – Researchers at Columbia University published a new study on how climate change could affect heat-related deaths in New York City. It is the first study to account for variability in future population size, greenhouse gas trajectories, and to the extent to which residents could adapt with interventions. The study projects that by 2080, 3,331 people could die every year in New York City due to exposure to heat during the summer months. The analysis indicates that 1,779 deaths could be avoided if greenhouse gas emission trajectories followed the lower RCP 4.5 scenario compared to the higher emitting RCP 8.5 scenario. [[Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, 6/23/16](#)]
- **PrepHub** – The Urban Risk Lab at MIT has been working with the City of San Francisco to embed “PrepHub” stations in public spaces to create more resilience. [[FastCo, 7/1/16](#)]
- **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.