

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

CPAC BULLETIN

July 2017

MEETING: The Climate Protection Action Committee will meet on July 13, 6:00 pm at City Hall Annex, 2nd floor. This meeting will focus on the climate action plan vision statement and other committee business. The agenda for the meeting will be posted on the [Community Development Department website](#).

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **NEEP Workshops** – [2017 Regional Cold Climate Air Source Heat Pump Market Transformation Workshop](#); June 27-28. [2017 Regional Strategic Electrification Summit](#); June 29. Both workshops will be held at Schneider Electric Boston One Campus, 800 Federal Street, Andover. Sponsored by the Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership.
- **Cambridge Net Zero Action Plan** – June 29, 8:30 – 10:30 am, 50 Milk Street, 16th floor, Boston. Former Mayor Henrietta Davis and Net Zero Planner Seth Federspiel will speak about the Cambridge Net Zero Action Plan and also participate in the discussion about creating a net zero “handbook” for smaller municipalities. To register, [click here](#).
- **Envision Cambridge Climate & Environment Working Group** – July 19, 6:00 pm, Citywide Senior Center, 806 Mass. Ave. For more information, see the [Envision Cambridge website](#).
- **Energy Storage Forum** – July 20, 6:00-8:00 pm, Old West Church, 131 Cambridge Street, Boston. Climate Action Business Association and Peregrine Energy will discuss the state’s energy storage targets and how to ensure that meeting them will increase community resilience. [To register, 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 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.
- **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. 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

- **Cambridge Receives MVP Designation** – The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs has launched a new [Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness \(MVP\) Program](#) to encourage and support communities to plan for resilience and climate change impacts. Cambridge is among the first communities to be designated as an MVP community based on the work it has already completed through the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment. The other MVP communities are Salem, Somerville, Swampscott, and Boston. EOEEA also awarded grant funding to 71 communities to support resilience planning. EOEEA is providing climate change data and planning tools as well. The MVP Program is part of the implementation of Governor Charlie Baker's Executive Order 569, which lays out a comprehensive approach to greenhouse gas emission reductions and climate change resilience. The MVP Program, in a manner similar to the Green Communities Program, will work in stepwise fashion to move communities toward resilience. [[EOEEA press release, 6/8/17](#)]
- **Keep Cool 2017 App Launches** – The 2017 version of the [Keep Cool app](#) has been launched by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) in partnership with the Metro Mayors Coalition. It covers the 14 cities and towns that are part of the Metro Boston Climate Change Preparedness Commitment, including Cambridge. The app helps users find cooling facilities, such as swimming pools, parks with water play, etc. The app also has information about energy efficient air conditioning resources, and health information about heat stress.
- **Eversource Top-Ranked Utility on Energy Efficiency** – Massachusetts utilities Eversource and National Grid tied for the top spot among 51 utilities rated by the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy in their first [Utility Energy Efficiency Scorecard](#). The scorecard rates utilities on metrics for quantitative savings and spending performance, program diversity and emerging areas, and targets, business models, and evaluation. In Massachusetts, utility energy efficiency plans are developed under regulations administered by the Public Utilities Commission.
- **Netherlands Getting Off Natural Gas** – The Netherlands has set an objective to get all residential buildings off natural gas by 2050 as part of their drive to achieve a carbon neutral economy. The main strategies are to deploy better building insulation and to replace natural gas with alternative fuels, such as electric based systems running on renewable energy. Heat pumps will be a key technology. To achieve its goal, 170,000 homes will have to be converted from natural gas systems every year. There are already 31 municipalities that have signed "Green Deals" for gas-less neighborhoods. [[Energy Post, 6/7/17](#)]
- **More Deadly Heat Waves** – According to a [new study published in Nature Climate Change](#), deadly heat waves will become a growing risk, affecting 30 percent of the world's population today and expanding to 74 percent by the end of the century if no action is taken to address climate change. The study analyzed the portion of the world population that would be exposed to at least 20 days annually to lethal heat events

where temperatures exceed the human thermoregulation capacity. If aggressive action on climate change is taken, the portion of the world population that is exposed to lethal heat events would be kept to 48 percent. The researchers created an [interactive world map](#) to illustrate the number of lethal heat days. [\[Inside Climate News, 6/19/17\]](#)

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **Job** - [Environmental Planner/Conservation Agent](#), Town of Arlington.
- **Boston Area Laboratory Energy Benchmarking Study** -The Boston Green Ribbon Commission published the [Boston Area Lab Energy Benchmarking Study](#), which focuses mostly on academic laboratories, including Harvard and MIT.
- **Cool Neighborhoods NYC** – New York City launched a new [Cool Neighborhoods NYC program](#) aimed at reducing urban heat vulnerability. The program includes a new Be a Buddy NYC initiative to promote community cohesion to protect at-risk individuals and a program to provide climate risk training to home health aides. Tree planting and cool roofs are also part of the initiative.
- **EPA Climate Change Website Archive** – A number of US cities, including [Boston](#), have archived and posted climate change information and data that has been removed from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's website by the Trump Administration.
- **Green Real Estate** – Bloomberg Reports issued its [Green Real Estate guide](#), which is a series of articles on sustainability in the real estate sector.
- **Harvesting the Value of Water** – [Harvesting the Value of Water: Stormwater, green infrastructure, and real estate](#) is a new report from the Urban Land Institute. The report is about how green infrastructure can create value for real estate projects by improving operational efficiency and serving as an attractive amenity.
- **Air Quality Data and Alerts** – [AirNow](#) is a federal website that provides real time air quality data. Users can sign up for air quality alerts.
- **Urban Trees Reduce Urban Heat Island Magnitude** – [Effects of urban tree canopy loss on land surface temperature magnitude and timing](#) is a new scientific paper that analyzes how the loss of tree canopy in Worcester, MA following an Asian Longhorned Beetle infestation led to increasing land surface temperatures.
- **Deloitte Resources Study on Energy Management** – The [Deloitte 2017 Resources Study](#) surveys the residential and business perspectives on energy efficiency and renewable energy based on 1500 online residential interviews and 700 online business interviews. The report finds that 8 in 10 respondents agreed that their company's view of energy procurement is shifting from merely a cost to an opportunity for reducing risk, improving resilience, and creating new value.
- **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 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.