

# Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

## CPAC BULLETIN

### November 2012

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**MEETING:** The next meeting of the Climate Protection Action Committee is scheduled for November 8, 6:00 pm, City Hall Annex, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room. The [agenda](#) will be posted on the Community Development Department website. The featured topic this month is the urban heat island effect.

#### EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **LBJ Apartments Energy Renovation Tour** - November 13, 7:00 pm, LBJ Apartments, 150 Erie Street; meet in the community room on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. Join Cambridge Housing Authority's Tina Miller for a tour of the Lyndon B. Johnson Apartments. The just completed high rise retrofit estimates 55% energy savings by switching from electric to gas fired heating augmented by combined heat and co-generation systems, roof top solar PV arrays, passive solar plenums, energy recovery units, and a new energy saving exterior shell. Sponsored by Greenport.
- **350.Org Do the Math Tour** – November 15, Orpheum Theatre, Boston. Bill McKibben is on tour with stars and video to talk about the climate crisis. For more info, click [here](#).
- **SoL's Leading and Learning for Sustainability Workshop** – November 7 to 9, 2012, Bedford, MA; with Peter Senge, Joe Laur (SEED), and Darcy Winslow (Nike Foundation and Former Head of Women's Performance Division). The Leading and Learning for Sustainability workshop is a synthesis of core organizational learning disciplines—systems thinking, mental models and collaborative inquiry, personal mastery and building shared vision—and the practical know-how developed within the SoL Sustainability Consortium over the past decade, much of which is captured in the book, [The Necessary Revolution](#). This workshop will focus on how these core learning disciplines can build capabilities for Sustainability Leadership—seeing systems, collaborating across boundaries with ease, and shifting from reactive problem solving to creating new futures. For more information, please [click here](#) or contact Lisa Kim at [programs@solonline.org](mailto:programs@solonline.org) or 617-300-9560. Fees apply.
- **Green Streets** – This initiative encourages people throughout Cambridge (and Somerville and surrounding cities and towns) to use a green form of transportation (transit, bicycle, walk, skate) on a designated day of the month and to wear a green-colored item of attire. The goal is to make Cambridge and neighboring cities safer, quieter, and friendlier for pedestrians and cyclists, and to minimize the use and impact of cars. Generally, the designated day is the last Friday of the month. Check the [Cambridge Green Streets Initiative website](#) for more info and incentives.

#### NEWS

- **Cambridge Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment** – The City of Cambridge has commenced a climate change vulnerability assessment. The City Manager has directed City agencies to conduct an assessment of Cambridge's risks from storm surge flooding associated with sea level rise, more intense storm events, and increasing temperatures to people, infrastructure, the local economy, and public health. The assessment follows a [recommendation from the Climate Protection Action Committee](#), the City's advisory committee on climate change policy and implementation. The City has hired a team of

consultants led by Kleinfelder, a Cambridge-based architecture, engineering, and sustainability consulting firm, to work with City staff. The vulnerability assessment, which will run to the end of 2013, will serve as the foundation for a climate change adaptation/resilience plan that will follow. More information on the project, including public meetings, will be made available soon.

- **MAPC Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy** – The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), the regional planning agency for the Metro Boston area, is preparing a regional climate change adaptation strategy. Building on the state's 2011 climate change adaptation report, MAPC will prepare recommendations for local, regional, and state action to reduce vulnerabilities to future hazards and impacts of climate change. The project is part of a larger [Sustainable Communities initiative](#) funded by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development. The project will run to the summer of 2013.
- **American Attitudes on Climate Change** – The attitudes of Americans on climate change has been shifting according to the Yale Project on Climate Change Communication. According to the project, 70% of Americans believe global warming is happening as of September 2012, up from 57% in January 2010. The number saying global warming is not happening declined from 20% to 12% over the same time period. For the first time since 2008, over half (54%) believe global warming is caused mostly by human activities. Americans who say global warming is mostly caused by natural changes declined to 30%. For more details about the survey, click [here](#).

## RESOURCES & IDEAS

- **Job: Livable Streets Campaign Coordinator** – Full time position coordinating Livable Streets' advocacy efforts. Click [here](#) for more information.
- **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 Modern Development Studio 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.
- **Reduce Junk Mail** - Easiest way to save resources? Say no to junk mail! Each year American households receive a total of 104.7 billion pieces of junk mail or 848 pieces of junk mail per household, requiring 6.5 million tons of paper. Unwanted mail isn't just a nuisance it's also a source of tremendous waste as trees, water and other resources used during production and printing are wasted along with the fuel during the delivery and recycling process. Help save paper, water and fuel resources by stopping the waste at its source - tell these companies to stop sending you things you don't want. Anyone can sign up and create a free account at [catalogchoice.org](#) and start opting-out of unwanted catalogs, junk mail, phone books, and credit card offers today. For more information, contact the [Product Stewardship Institute](#).
- **Check Out Watt Meters at the Library** – Cambridge residents can borrow a “kill-a-watt” meter from the Main Public Library to measure how much electricity their home appliances and devices use. The meters come with a guide on how to use them and information on how to save energy. The meter kits and guide were developed by the [Sprouts of Hope](#) group based at the King Open School.
- **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.
- **NSTAR Green** – Residential and small business electric customers of NSTAR can opt to purchase renewable electricity generated by wind energy farms. To sign up for the service, visit the [NSTAR website](#).

- **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.
  - **Sustainable Business Leader Program** - SBLP is a comprehensive certification program that supports local businesses in improving their environmental business practices and reducing their carbon footprint. For more information please visit the [SBLP website](#) or email to [katrina@sbnboston.org](mailto:katrina@sbnboston.org).
  - **MCAN Low Carbon Living Program** – The [Massachusetts Climate Action Network](#) works with its local member organizations to develop teams of 5 to 8 households to assess their household carbon footprints and undertake actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The program is based on the Low Carbon Diet workbook and involves 3 to 4 meetings.
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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.