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Cambridge local community groups cut carbon and fought climate change hands-on as part of *International Day of Climate Action*

The Cambridge Energy Alliance donated the efficiency lighting supplies—bulbs initially provided by TCP, Inc.—and resources for the Area 4 exchange. In addition, Whole Foods donated food for the community volunteers and EFI provided discounts for the purchase of efficiency materials used in the community barnraisings.

The communities of Reading, Boston, Waltham, Arlington, and Maynard will continue the spirit of the International Day of Action with weatherization barnraisings scheduled for the next 30 days. The buildings included homes for mentally disabled adults and a church.

In addition, many houses of worship around the world and in Cambridge rang their bells 350 times on Saturday in a call for climate action. “We’re ringing our church bell because climate justice is a religious issue,” explained Rev. Fred Small, Senior Minister of First Parish in Cambridge (Unitarian Universalist). “The eighth commandment says, ‘Thou shall not steal,’ and global warming steals from our own children and grandchildren. It harms most the poorest and most vulnerable people on earth, who are least responsible for causing it.”

Many of the eastern Massachusetts community events ended the day by joining the Boston 350 Under Water Festival. Hundreds of citizens gathered en masse in downtown Boston’s Christopher Columbus Park and engaged in positive attention-getting and imagination-catching activities. The Boston 350 event used the iconic image of sea level rise to draw attention to the threat of global climate change.

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About HEET: The Home Energy Efficiency Team (HEET) is a Cambridge-based co-op bringing neighbors together to weatherize our homes and take the energy future into our own hands.

About CEA: The Cambridge Energy Alliance is a city-sponsored organization working with homeowners, businesses, and institutions across the city to achieve unprecedented levels of energy savings and to expand clean energy sources.

About TCP: TCP, Inc. of Cleveland, Ohio is a global leader in energy efficient lighting innovations. TCP is dedicated to creating high-quality products that are brighter, longer lasting, and better for the environment. The company accounts for a majority of the CFLs sold in the United States and an annual reduction in carbon dioxide emissions of more than 118 million pounds.