

MIT

Sustainability Collaborations with City of Cambridge

- **Cambridge-MIT Clean Diesel Collaborative** – MIT successfully partnered with the City of Cambridge to win and implement an EPA Voluntary Diesel Retrofit grant of \$86,000 that installed advance diesel pollution control devices on both City and MIT diesel vehicles. These installations are reducing harmful diesel emissions in the community where they operate. MIT wrote the grant with City input, and the City received and dispersed the funds.
- **Vassar Streetscape Revitalization Project** – As part of MIT’s building program, Vassar Street, a public way that bisects MIT’s campus, was transformed from a nondescript urban byway into a vibrant urban boulevard with bicycle tracks, spacious sidewalks, street trees, and contemporary streetlights. The project significantly improved the pedestrian and cyclist experience. The project was the product of an intensive collaboration between the City of Cambridge and MIT.
- **Electric Vehicle Charging Stations** – MIT partnered with the City to participate in a state grant that installed two Level II ChargePoint networked electric vehicle charging stations for use by the MIT community and the public. Located at buildings 46 and WW15, these two installations are intended to advance regional infrastructure to support the adoption of electric vehicles through a collaborative program with the City of Cambridge.
- **Das Haus Pavilion** – MIT partnered with the Mayor’s Office to plan and host the installation and exhibit of this traveling pavilion about advanced technologies for construction and solar energy use, in addition to hosting several on campus workshops related to building energy use.
- **Hubway Bike Share Program** - Working with the City of Cambridge to expand Boston’s local commercial bike-share program, MIT partnered to install two bike share stations for commercial bicycle rentals to bring the popular program into the City of Cambridge. MIT is currently considering expanding the service.
- **Community Research Collaboration**
 - **Solar Map.** Working closely with the City, MIT researchers developed an interactive map to show Cambridge property owners how much electricity can be produced on their rooftops from solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, how the financial investment will pay off and how much pollution will be reduced. The Solar Map was developed by the Sustainable Design Lab at MIT in collaboration with the City of Cambridge Community Development Department.
 - **Infrared Energy Imaging.** Sharing results with the City, an MIT research project developed an inventory of thermal infrared images of nearly every building in Cambridge to identify and estimate the potential of energy efficiency investments across the city.

- **Renewable Energy Assessments.** MIT student teams have worked with City staff to measure and analyze wind resources in the City, and determine the feasibility of solar and wind power generation systems on the high school roof.
- **Community Energy Efficiency and Climate Mitigation Studies.** Discussions are well underway for a collaborative, faculty-sponsored study of community-based strategies for promoting energy efficiency in rental units. Classes have worked with City staff on identifying local GHG reduction opportunities.
- **Cambridge Science Festival** – A first of its kind in the United States, the festival is a celebration showcasing the leading edge in science, technology, engineering and math. A multifaceted, multicultural event every spring, the Cambridge Science Festival makes science accessible, interactive and fun. It is a joint and collaborative effort of the City and MIT with Harvard, Cambridge Public Schools, Cambridge Public Library, WGBH, and the Museum of Science.
- **Service to City Committees**
 - University staff and faculty serve on a number of City committees addressing sustainability issues, including the Climate Adaptation Technical Advisory Committee, Green Building Committee, Climate Protection Action Committee, Climate Congress, Pedestrian Committee, Bicycle Committee, Cambridge Energy Alliance Stakeholder Committee, and Recycling Committee.
 - MIT staff serve on several joint transportation and community planning initiatives.
- **Community Donations of Food and Equipment**
 - MIT regularly donates surplus food to local area shelters, including CASPAR, an emergency service center established in cooperation with the City on MIT property.
 - MIT annually conducts campus-wide clothing and equipment drives for area charities, including a dorm move-out event.
 - The MIT Furniture Exchange, a service project of the MIT Women’s League, promotes large-scale reuse by offering donated furniture to the Cambridge-area college community at bargain prices.
- **Knowledge Sharing and Other Collaborations**
 - MIT has hosted numerous public events, workshops, symposia, and conferences that invite the participation and engagement of City staff and the community to share best practices in the areas of energy, environment, and sustainability.
 - The Mayor’s Summer Youth Employment Program and Green Sense Youth Team have been hosted on campus for green campus tours and interviews. Cambridge school tours of MIT’s solar PV systems and green buildings have been conducted on request.