

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE– October 22, 2013
INFORMATION FROM THE
CAPE COD COMMISSION
BARNSTABLE COUNTY

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CAPE COD
COMMISSION

Ideas being generated, causes being added

BARNSTABLE COUNTY, MA – With the launch of Mission 1 Monday morning, conversations are flowing as part of *Cape₂O: ur in charge!*, the Cape Cod Commission's water quality-focused game.



The Commission partnered with the Game Lab to develop two water quality-focused games on its Community PlanIt platform to support public participation and engagement for the Section 208 Plan Update. The goal of this and other outreach efforts is to develop an implementable water quality plan for the region.

Among the more than 500 people registered to play are students, teachers, business owners, retirees and town officials.

Some of the early comments from the game show the range of knowledge about water quality on Cape Cod:

"I know nothing about the water management problem on the Cape, except for what I have just read." – *Rachael, student*

"Although waste water contributes the most nitrogen to the water system, it's not something that's under personal control -- it requires a region-wide commitment to finding a solution. It seems like how one manages one's garden is the one that's most under one's individual control. As a community, though, Cape Codders have the means to take action on waste water management." – *Sallie, regular visitor*.

While it is termed a game by our partners at Emerson College and the Engagement Game Lab, the platform is really about social engagement around a particular issue utilizing game theory concepts. It's part education, part awareness raising, and part feedback loop to help inform the Section 208 Plan update for all of Cape Cod.

Register today!

Register online at
communityplanit.org/capecod2

Registration remains open
throughout the game!

Each mission begins Monday morning and is open for seven days, after which comments and questions are available for review.

Mission 1, "It's Only Natural," launched Monday morning and runs through Oct. 27. Mission 2 begins Oct. 28, followed by Mission 3 on Nov. 4.

Already on board for round 2 are the [National Marine Life Center](#), [Boys and Girls Club of Cape Cod](#) and [CARE for the Cape and Islands](#). Added through player nominations on the first day of play were [WE CAN](#) (Women's Empowerment through Cape Area Networking) and [Cotuit Center for the Arts](#). User-nominated causes will be added throughout the three weeks of the game, all becoming eligible for one of three \$1,000 prizes.

After the final mission, all players will be invited to attend a **November 13** finale event at the Cape Cod Museum of Art in Dennis for game awards and recognition. The Commission will also use this gathering as an opportunity to bring the 170 stakeholders engaged in the Section 208 Water Quality Plan Update together as one group to hear about next steps once their portion concludes in December. Cape Cod Commission

Executive Director Paul Niedzwiecki will preview the 208 Update for the first six months of 2014, which includes submission of the draft plan to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection in May 2014.

For more information about the game or to register, log on to capecodcommission.org/game, or communityplanit.org/capecod2.

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ABOUT THE CAPE COD COMMISSION:

Cape Cod Commission is the regional land use planning, economic development, and regulatory agency created in 1990 to serve the citizens and 15 towns that comprise Barnstable County, Massachusetts, better known as Cape Cod. The Commission works toward maintaining a healthy balance between economic progress and environmental vitality. "Keeping a special place special" describes the agency's mission to protect the region's unique qualities. The 19-member volunteer Cape Cod Commission board represents a wide spectrum of the community and provides oversight for a staff of 40 professionals. The Commission is responsible for regional planning, policy, and regulations to help manage growth, and the agency supports the Cape's 15 towns with cost-effective planning and technical services. For more information, visit: www.capecodcommission.org