

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – October 15, 2013
INFORMATION FROM THE
CAPE COD COMMISSION
BARNSTABLE COUNTY



CAPE COD
COMMISSION

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Calling all causes for Cape₂O: ur in charge!
Three \$1,000 prizes available; game launches
Oct. 21



BARNSTABLE COUNTY, MA – The clock is ticking down to the October 21 launch of *Cape₂O: ur in charge!* and the Cape Cod Commission is actively recruiting players and “Causes.”

Causes, which are eligible to win one of three \$1,000 prizes, are community- or school-based projects highlighted and supported in the game. They are an integral part of the Community PlanIt gaming platform developed by Emerson College’s Engagement Game Lab. The Commission partnered with the Game Lab to develop two water quality-focused games 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.

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.

The game that starts October 21 will introduce concepts to a broader field of players than the first game, including middle- and high-school aged students. Commission staff is reaching out to educators across Cape Cod and inviting their school communities to participate.

Already on board for round 2 are the [National Marine Life Center](#) and [CARE for the Cape and Islands](#),

Lisa McNeill, president of [Cape Cod Volunteers](#), was an active player in the first game and her organization was among the three winning causes.

Register today!

Register online at
communityplanit.org/capecod2
or look for us at the [13th Annual Wellfleet OysterFest!](#)
Oct. 19 & 20.

“As a nonprofit organization on Cape Cod, we were able to mobilize some of our constituents to play Cape₂O for our cause,” McNeill said. “This had multiple benefits, including more people learning about wastewater issues, more people knowing about CCV because we were one of the game’s causes, and ultimately support for CCV’s work.”

Players also have the opportunity to nominate their own causes. First round winners Wild Care of Cape Cod and [Children’s Cove](#) were both nominated by players.

“The game was a lot of fun and I learned much about our local water quality and watershed concerns,” Stephanie Ellis, executive director of [Wild Care of Cape Cod](#) said. “Cape₂O is an easy way to inform future decisions about our watersheds, while providing support to your favorite Causes.”

Those interested in becoming a cause should contact David Still at the Commission office, 508-362-3828 ext. 1261, or dstill@capecodcommission.org.

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