

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – **October 1, 2013**

INFORMATION FROM THE  
**CAPE COD COMMISSION**  
BARNSTABLE COUNTY



CAPE COD  
COMMISSION

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**Cape<sub>2</sub>O: ur in charge! launches Oct. 21**  
Registration, cause nominations open



BARNSTABLE COUNTY, MA – Registration is now open for *Cape<sub>2</sub>O: ur in charge!*, the second and final installment of the Cape Cod Commission’s innovative approach to public outreach to improve water quality across the Cape.

The Commission partnered with Emerson College’s Engagement 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.

*Cape<sub>2</sub>O: ur in charge!* launches Oct. 21 for the first of three week-long missions.

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.

In January 2013, the Commission was directed to update the Cape’s Area-wide Water Quality Management Plan under Section 208 of the U.S. Clean Water Act. This is a comprehensive regional review of water quality issues facing the region. The plan will focus initially on nutrient management and water quality planning for Cape Cod’s coastal embayments.

Many of the concepts related to nutrient pollution of estuaries and freshwater bodies are not well understood. One goal of the Cape<sub>2</sub>O approach is to introduce some of these concepts to which people can relate through personal experiences and observations or more accessible information.

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.

Three \$1,000 prizes will be awarded to community- or school-based projects called "Causes" in the game. Players earn virtual coins that can be pledged in support of these causes. Players also have the opportunity to nominate their own causes. In the first game, two player-nominated causes were among the three winners. At the finale for the first game, \$1,000 awards were made to Wild Care of Cape Cod, Children's Cove, and Cape Cod Volunteers.

For more information, log on to [capecodcommission.org/game](http://capecodcommission.org/game), or [communityplanit.org/capecod2](http://communityplanit.org/capecod2).

To learn more about the Community PlanIt platform, log on to [engagementgamelab.org/projects/community-planit/](http://engagementgamelab.org/projects/community-planit/)

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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](http://www.capecodcommission.org)