

Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 3, Issue 3 March 2015 – Falmouth, Maine

- This winter feels like it will never end—but it will! Spring begins March 20th—Just a few weeks away!
- What are your home energy plans to wrap up this winter and prepare for warmer days ahead?
- Have you had an energy audit or assessment done through Efficiency Maine or independently? Drop us a line at reac@falmouthme.org and share your home energy story with us!
- Any ideas or suggestions on how Falmouth can be greener? More sustainable? Use less energy? We’d love to hear your thoughts, and ways in which *you* live sustainably, give us a shout!

Calendar of Local Green Events- March 2015

Event	Date/Time/Location	Description
<p>Sustainability Science Documentary Film Series: The Great Invisible</p> 	<p>March 5 7:00-9:00pm Unity College, UCCPA 42 Depot St, Unity</p>	<p>Watch films and meet the filmmakers! Documentary film has emerged as one of the most powerful ways to communicate environmental problems and help society imagine their solutions. Viewings are from 7:00-9:00pm at the Unity College Center of Performing Arts auditorium. This event is free and open to the public.</p>
<p>South Portland Home Energy Fair</p> 	<p>March 14 10:00am-3:00pm South Portland Community Center, 21 Nelson Road</p>	<p>The Greater Portland Sustainability Council has joined local communities to coordinate this winter’s series of home energy fairs; bringing home owners and heating professionals together in one space. The events are free and children’s entertainment is always provided. For more information, click here. Sponsored by:</p> 
<p>Jay O’Hara: Coal Protestor. A Speaking Evening</p> 	<p>March 14 6:30-9:00pm Talbot Lecture Hall, USM 85 Bedford St, Portland</p>	<p>Jay O’Hara blockaded 40,000 tons of coal on May 15th, 2013—by lobster boat! Come to this event where Jay will speak on behalf of his experiences and the trial that followed in September. This event fits in great with USM who recently voted to divest from coal! Watch Jay O’Hara’s video by following this link. Sponsored by SEAS/EcoReps and 350 Maine.</p>

<p>Cleantech Opens 2015 launches in Maine</p> 	<p>March 16 6:30-8:30pm Think Tank Coworking 533 Congress St, Portland</p>	<p>The Cleantech open is a premier accelerator and pitch-contest program for environmental startups. Its mission is to find, fund and foster entrepreneurs with big ideas that address today's most urgent energy, environmental and economic challenges. For more information, visit this site. Sponsored by E2Tech.</p>
<p>Renewable Energy Subsidies: Investment or Entitlement?</p> 	<p>March 25 7:30-10:00am Governor Hill Mansion 136 State St, Augusta</p>	<p>Maine has one of the strongest renewable energy portfolio standards (RPS) in the country, requiring 40% of total electricity supply to come from renewable energy sources by 2017; 10% from new sources. This event will cover topics such as: regional RPS, incentives for renewables, subsidizing infrastructures and more. These issues are critically important to Maine's energy, economic and environmental policies, plans and projects. Don't miss out on this event!</p>
<p>Speaker Series: Climate Change Update—Maine Wildlife in Trouble</p> 	<p>March 25 7:00-9:00pm Maine Audubon Gisland Farm Rd, Falmouth</p>	<p>Join Maine Audubon for this panel discussion to learn about the latest threats to Maine wildlife and plant species. Topics include: which species are most vulnerable and why, how sea level rise affects shorebirds, pests and diseases, threatened habitats, and how warming waters are affecting many of our cold water fish.</p>
<p>Bangor Home Show</p> 	<p>March 27—1:00pm-8:00pm March 28—10:00am-8:00pm March 29—10:00am-5:00pm The Bangor Cross Insurance Center 515 Main St, Bangor</p>	<p>The 45th Annual Bangor Home Show is one that you don't want to miss. This show attracts 20,000 patrons and exhibits over 300 booths. Some products and services include: home improvement, interior decorating, heating and air conditioning, flooring, alarm systems and security, windows and doors, appliances and much more! For more information, follow this link.</p>

<p>Maine Sustainability & Water Conference</p> 	<p>March 31 7:30am-4:00pm Augusta Civic Center 76 Community Dr, Augusta</p>	<p>The Maine Water Conference Was founded in 1994 by the Mitchell Center as an annual forum to exchange information and present new findings on water resource issues in Maine. Last year, the forum expanded its focus to become the Maine Sustainability & Water Conference, including several sessions on sustainability science research in Maine as sessions with joint focus on water resources and sustainability. Follow this link for more information and to register.</p>
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Energy News

Green practices at Hannaford save \$15 million—Hannaford is saving an estimated \$15 million a year through sustainability efforts at its 184 supermarkets, according to a recent study. The study found that Hannaford’s sustainability practices annually divert 125 million pounds of waste from landfills, conserve 43.4 million gallons of water and keep more than 43 million pounds of greenhouse gases from being emitted. To read more, [click here](#).

Energy subsidies aren’t just for renewables; fossil fuels get the lion’s share—energy, especially proposals to lower costs, will again be a significant topic off debate in Augusta this year. A 2010 report by *Bloomberg New England Finance* found globally, fossil fuel subsidies are 12 times higher than those of alternative energy. Meanwhile, renewable energy companies are growing in Maine. Studies are reporting that nearly \$1.3 billion would be invested in Maine by renewable energy-related companies between 2006 and 2018 with the creation of 1,500 jobs each year. This year is expected to peak, with 4,200 jobs created. For the full article, [click here](#).

Pittsfield company selected to lead community solar effort in Freeport—The Town of Freeport has teamed up with Pittsfield and Assured Solar of North Yarmouth to launch *Solarize Freeport*, an effort to reduce the costs of solar equipment and installation for residents this year, between May and October. Those who sign the contract prior to noon on May 2 will qualify for bulk pricing---the driving force behind lowering the cost of solar energy systems in Freeport. With the Freeport Comprehensive Plan calling for the use of renewable energy for electricity, the solar equipment costs dropping nearly 50% over the last five years, and the federal tax credit terminating in 2016—there is no better time to create strong incentives to act now. To read more, follow [this link](#).

Interested in joining Falmouth residents to **“Solarize Falmouth”**?

Send Energy & Sustainability Coordinator, Kimberly Darling an email at kdarling@falmouthme.org, or give her a call at 781-5253 x 5337.

Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

To support The Sierra Club's Maine Chapters' important environmental advocacy and education work, Maine's largest solar installer ReVision Energy will make a donation for each solar system, purchased by a Sierra Club supporter. To get started, [schedule a free appointment](#) with ReVision for an estimate for a photovoltaic and/or hot water solar system for your home or business.

Spring is in the air! (Kind of) Here are a few tips on how to be most efficient at home with warmer weather nearing:

- ❖ Spring-cleaning involves making sure all the fans in your home are working properly and are dust-free—regularly wash or replace filters. Consider installing a timer switch on your bathroom fan, so that it runs only as long as it is required.
- ❖ In preparing for warmer weather, consider investing in some insulated, thermal-backed drapes for your windows. Not only do they keep you home warm when it's cold, they'll keep it cool when it's warm.
- ❖ Have you ever thought about installing an attic ventilator? An attic ventilating system draws cool air up through the house and provides the same comfort as an air conditioner at a much lower cost. Pump in cool air during summer evenings then seal up your home during the day. Attic ventilation can help lower winter heating bills, too!
- ❖ Have a look at your foundation walls—if you have an unfinished basement or crawlspace, check it for air leaks by looking for spider webs. If there's a web, there's a draft. A large amount of heat is also lost from an un-insulated basement.
- ❖ When dust and pet hair build up on your refrigerator's condenser coils, the motor works harder and uses more electricity—as part of your spring cleaning, make sure the coils are cleaned and air can circulate freely. While you're at it, check the seals on your refrigerator door to make sure they are clean and tight. Your refrigerator accounts for up to 11% of your household's total energy use, which can have a major impact on your bill.

Did you know that the state of Maine...?

...is a net importer of energy, has no fossil fuels, and only produces energy from renewable sources?

...is ranked 44th for carbon dioxide emissions, which means it is among the lowest 10 emitters of carbon dioxide in the nation?

...is included in the top ten highest prices of natural gas in the nation?

...consumes 1/3 of the energy in the industrial sector, with almost another 1/3 by the transportation sector?

...has half of the net electricity generation supplied through hydroelectric dams and wood-based biomass?

...only has one coal-burning power plant, and no nuclear power plants?

For more Maine Energy Facts, [follow this link](#).

REAC'S Mission: The Town of Falmouth Energy and Recycling Advisory Committee advises the Falmouth Town Council on matters relating to the town's solid waste recycling program, energy efficiency and other related matters deemed appropriate by the Council. Duties shall include but not be limited to the following: (1) Endeavor to save local taxpayer dollars through increased energy-efficiency of municipal facilities and operations; (2) Prioritize the ad hoc Falmouth Green Ribbon Committee's 2010 recommendations that the Council wants to pursue; (3) Educate Falmouth residents and businesses about energy-efficient, waste-reducing, clean energy opportunities and choices; (4) Enhance and promote the town's recycling program; (5) Promote the use of clean, renewable energy sources in Falmouth's public and private facilities through education and outreach; (6) Work with surrounding communities on potential regional energy efficiency and clean energy strategies; (7) Monitor new developments and options in the fields of energy and waste management as technologies evolve and change; educate the public and advise the Council on same; (8) Research and report policies to accomplish the above goals and/or other related goals deemed appropriate by the Town Council.