

Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 2, Issue 1 – January 2014 – Falmouth, Maine

- Have a question about recycling, energy efficiency or weatherization? E-mail us!
- Questions about energy efficiency or weatherization, just shout!
- Have you had an energy audit and done some renovations, either through Efficiency Maine or independently? Drop us a line at reac@town.falmouth.me.us – we’re looking for locations for our “Warm House Party” season and would love to talk with you! We would love to learn about a Geothermal heating system if you have one!
- Sustainability and Energy Coordinator, Kimberly Darling is eager to find volunteers to work with REAC. If you are passionate about environmental issues, and would love a chance to “think globally, and act locally” right here in Falmouth, contact her at kdarling@town.falmouth.me.us
- REAC welcomes our newest member, Peter Dootz! We’re looking forward to working with Peter and thank him for his interest and time.
- **SAVE THE DATE** and attend:
(See details in calendar below)

Saturday, January 25

Falmouth High School Cafeteria

74 Woodville Rd

10:00am-2:00pm



**Falmouth
Home Energy
Fair!**

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.

Calendar of Local Green Events



Please print the "Local Green Events" table, and hang it somewhere to remind you about upcoming events!

Event	Date/ Time/ Location	Description
Hearing for LD 1461: An Act to Require the State to Divest	January 9 2:00pm Room 228, Maine State House Augusta	The Appropriations & Financials Affairs Committee will hold a public hearing on LD 1461 which divests fossil fuel stocks from the Maine Public Employees Retirement System. Being aware of the harmful effects of fossil fuels, we know there is no secure future for the climate if we continue to use oil, coal and gas. Divesting a portfolio of fossil fuel stocks can also lead to new, increased investment in alternative energy. Come let your voice be heard and support 350Maine , a group actively engaged to fight and stop climate change.
Maine Agricultural Trades Show 	January 7 9am-5pm January 8 9am-8pm January 9 9am-3pm Augusta Civic Center 76 Community Drive	Admission is <i>free</i> ! The 73 rd Annual Maine Agricultural Trades Show is hosted by Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and is open to the general public. The show provides an atmosphere to walk through, observe and educate the public about different areas of agriculture. To view the show's meeting program as well as highlights, visit: http://www.getrealmaine.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/calendar.detail/event_id/94/
ReVision Energy's Solar Open House	January 18 9:00am-10:30am 243 Lake Street in Auburn, Maine.	The public is invited to Anne Lows home in Auburn for a demonstration of her 4.6 kW solar energy system and solar hot water system. Learn how Mrs. Low offsets 10,651 tons of carbon pollution each year and gather information from ReVision staff about these fascinating solar systems.
NRCM Presentation Environmental Leadership: From Kitchen Tables to the State House and Beyond 	January 22 7:00am-9:00am Holiday Inn by the Bay 88 Spring St, Portland	Join NRCM's Executive Director, Lisa Pohlmann, as part of the Institute for Civic Leadership's "Leadership in Action" breakfast series. Mrs. Pohlmann's presentation will incorporate her passion for the outdoors and experience with NRCM to discuss why citizen action is essential to a healthy environment, as well as successful communities. Register for the event at http://civicleadership.org/programs-services/breakfast-series/ because it is expected to fill up quickly!

FALMOUTH HOME ENERGY FAIR



**January 25
10:00am-2:00pm
Falmouth High School
Cafeteria**

74 Woodville Rd, Falmouth

This *free* event will provide useful information about making our homes more efficient and comfortable while saving money and reducing our impact on the planet. Heating professionals, energy auditors and others in the field of recycling and composting will be there to answer your questions and provide information. Join us for live demonstrations, displays, snacks and drinks, kids' entertainment and a chance to win door prizes from guest presenters and local businesses! The High School's Environmental Action Club (EAC) will be there as well. Gain valuable knowledge from working professionals and help Falmouth and other communities become more energy efficient.

East End Green Building Walking
Tour

January 31
3:00pm
East End, Portland

*Stay tuned for tour details and
meet-up location.*

Join the Green Building Council's Maine Chapter on a walking tour of three green buildings on the East End of Portland. Pizza will be shared with good conversation after the event. The event is free and open to the public, however please RSVP to Katye Charette at executivedirector@maineugbc.org

Tar Sands Speakers Tour



January 31
6:30pm
University of Southern Maine
Portland

The Tar Sands Speakers Tour educates and mobilizes the general public around the significant threat of tar sands development. Presenters include: Garth Lenz, an award winning National Geographic photographer; and a First Nation's Person, either Crystal Lameman or Eriel Deranger. The power of these storytellers moves the issue from abstract to concrete, and compels the audience to take action. For more information, contact Sarah Lachance at sarah@350maine.org

Green Consumer Tips and How-To's

Passionate about Divestment? Sign this petition! [Divest the Maine Public Employees Retirement Systems from Fossil Fuels](#)

Using your dishwasher isn't necessarily "bad" for the environment. However, running it in the most efficient way will make it better and save you a little money: run it when it's full, use environmentally friendly soap without phosphate or chlorine, turn off the dry cycle, and if you're in the market for a new one- buy an Energy-Star rated dishwasher.

Running ceiling fans in reverse can reduce heating costs by 10%. Although many of us only associate fans with cooling breezes, switching to clockwise makes it warmer and air pooled near the ceiling is circulated back into the living space.

Turning down your water heater from 140 to 120 degrees F can help lower your water heating costs by 6-10%. Also, insulating your water heater and pipes can make a big difference in your heating bills.

Energy News

Last month, the Maine Audubon Society held a presentation about possible statewide wind power development and possible impacts on wildlife. Although researchers explained each site needs to be reviewed and assessed for minimal impacts, wind power development does not conflict with wildlife. [Read More Here.](#) Opposing this statewide wind study is a group called Friends of Maine Mountains-check out their report in [this article.](#)

Maine's largest solar project will be constructed on the roofs of Bowdoin College's athletic facilities. Read more about the proposed 1,300-kilowatt system [here.](#)

Falmouth has released a map detailing planned natural gas lines. The color coded map illustrates the anticipated lines over the next three years, beginning in 2014. Distribution lines are being installed by Summit Natural Gas in Falmouth, Cumberland and Yarmouth. [Read the full article here.](#)

The \$5,000 Efficiency Maine pellet boiler rebate is back! Due to incredibly high demand for ultra-low green-house gas emitting pellet boilers, Efficiency Maine has restarted this rebate program. [Learn more here.](#)

Did you know?

.....71% of consumers “think green” when purchasing? [According to this article](#), nearly all respondents (85%) claim they want companies to educate them to properly use and dispose of their products. This 2013 Cone Communications Green Gap Trend Tracker study was released in April 2013. Read more about sustainable products through an economic lense in [this article](#).

....the average U.S. resident tosses 66 pounds of e-waste each year!? [Stated in this article](#), by 2017, the UN estimates, world volumes of end-of-life electronic products is expected to be 33% high than 2012 and weigh the equivalent of eight Great Egyptian Pyramids. Learn how to recycle all waste at [The Falmouth Transfer Station](#).

....it is important to replace or clean furnace filters once a month during the heating season? Fiberglass filters trap 10-40% of debris; electrostatic filters trap around 88%. For more information on how to identify, measure and change your furnace filter, [click here](#).