

Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 2, Issue 6 June 2014 – Falmouth, Maine

- Thinking about your home energy costs? What better time to start your energy improvements in your home than over the summer, to get ready for the next heating season.
- Have you had an energy audit or assessment done through Efficiency Maine or independently? Drop us a line at reac@town.falmouth.me.us and share your home energy story with us!
- Interested in volunteering and helping out with REAC? Get in touch with Kimberly Darling, Energy and Sustainability Coordinator at kdarling@town.falmouth.me.us; she'd love to hear from you!



A REAC and Falmouth Update




- ❖ The town is currently undergoing a major construction project on Route One. Construction includes viewscape and side walk improvements, including planting of over 80 trees, along with burying utilities underground. To receive construction updates and news on what's planned to happen next along the corridor, visit the town page and subscribe to the Route One project. For specific questions, please contact Public Work Director, Jay Reynolds at jreynolds@town.falmouth.me.us.
- ❖ REAC has been working with Lucky D'Ascanio, Director of Community Programs, on the Mason-Motz/Community Center Renovations. The architects have prepared an energy audit and assessment of the facility. We will be working to determine what measures will be the most feasible and energy efficient for both the town and the building. Stay tuned for updates to come in the next newsletter!
- ❖ REAC held another *Movie Night* at the Memorial library on May 22nd, showing the documentary “Bag It”. Just recently, the city of Portland is considering a 5 cent fee on plastic bags at all stores within city boundaries. Ten members from the public, along with folks working in the regional effort to implement a fee and/or ban plastic bags, joined us for the film. Guest presenters included a representative from Lamey Wellehan—bag less as of 2014—along with ecomaine's environmental educator, who engaged the audience in an after-film discussion.

Save the Date!

Our next film showing is tentatively scheduled for **September 25th** –Please join us for the showing of “Ocean Frontiers: the Dawn of a New Era in Ocean Stewardship”. <http://ocean-frontiers.org/the-films/ocean-frontiers/> the film exposes a new way of thinking, a new way of living, in concert with the sea, in consideration of those yet to come. We look forward to seeing you then.

Calendar of Local Green Events- June 2014

Event	Date/Time/Location	Description
Green Eggs—Building Intelligence Systems 	June 4 Maine Audubon, Gisland Farm Education Center 7:30am-9:00am	PowerWise creates a variety of building intelligence monitoring systems for businesses and homes. Attend the event to be informed, and take action on your energy bills. PowerWise has helped entire green communities, researchers, manufacturers, solar installers, banks, schools and green builders control energy costs and reduce emissions. Attendance is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members, and includes networking and breakfast!
LEED Green Associate Workshop 	June 6 PDT Architects 49 Dartmouth St, Portland 9:00am-4:00pm	The Maine Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council is pleased to offer this full-day LEED Green Associate Workshop. The workshop is designed to introduce participants to basic green building concepts and strategies in an effort to prepare them for the LEED Green Associate Exam and Credential. For more information on this workshop, click here .
Solar Open House—City of South Portland's Planning Office 	June 7 496 Ocean St, South Portland 9:00am-10:30am	Come check out the South Portland Planning Office's solar array on June 7th from 9:00am to 10:30am. You can learn more about solar energy systems, how they work in our Northeast climate, current pricing and incentives. You will have the opportunity to tour their solar electric system and learn more about how they are saving money and the environment. All are welcome to this event and refreshments will be provided!
The Eat Local Foods Coalition's Monthly Meeting 	June 13 Curtis Memorial Library 23 Pleasant St, Brunswick 1:00pm-3:30pm	The Eat Local Foods Coalition (ELFC) is a collaborative coalition of organizations, agencies, businesses and individuals interested in creating a shift towards a locally-based food system that is economically vibrant, environmentally sustainable, and healthy. ELFC will host their monthly meeting in Brunswick on the 13 th , and invite anyone who is involved or interested in the local food system in Maine.

<p>MaineShare—25th Year Celebration</p> 	<p>June 17 Bowdoin College, Moulton Union, Brunswick 5:30pm-8:00pm</p>	<p>As an organization, MaineShare allows people to donate to over 40 statewide organizations, working to make Maine a better place. Donors help organizations achieve good health, environmental protection, safe communities, economic improvements and much more. Come join in their 25th year celebration on June 17th, with cash bar and live music!</p>
<p>Navigating the Northeastern Cleantech Cluster—E2 Tech</p> 	<p>June 19 Mariner's Church 368 Fore St, Portland 7:15am-9:30am</p>	<p>The Environmental and Energy Technology Council of Maine's (E2Tech) forum will reveal connection opportunities for companies throughout the Northeast and invite Cleantech leaders to share their entrepreneurial paths, their target markets, the resources and partners they engaged and obstacles they faces. For more information on speakers and the event, click here.</p>
<p>Climate Adaptation for Local Governments</p>	<p>June 24-26 377 Manktown Rd, Waldoboro 9:00am-5:00pm</p>	<p>This three day training course will provide individuals with a climate adaptation toolkit to proactively address adaptation planning priorities in local governments. Courses will be taught by NOAA's Coastal Services Center expert training staff and local partners. Added benefits include extended networking and opportunities to work with local governments and climate adaptation specialists from the region. For more information on this workshop, follow this link.</p>
<p>The Solid Waste Hierarchy: Waste-to-Energy & The Brighter Side of Landfills—E2Tech</p> 	<p>June 26 Wishcamper Center, USM 85 Bedford St, Portland 7:15am-9:30am</p>	<p>The Environmental & Natural Resource Committee has been grappling with the waste hierarchy to address electricity costs issues that could impact the financial viability of Maine's waste-to-energy and landfill facilities. Join the group at the USM's Portland Campus on the 26th to learn more about the Solid Waste Hierarchy. For more information on speakers and the event, click here.</p>

Energy News

Climate Change Meets Kitchen Table as Issue Gets Personal—President Barack Obama wants to shift the conversation from polar bears and melting glaciers to droughts in Iowa and more childhood asthma across the country. [Follow this link to read the full article.](#)

As Ice Sheets Melt, Communities Worry That Health Effects are Overlooked— Hosted by the Center for Climate and Health at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium in Anchorage, the LEO network catalogs ongoing environmental and public health changes in northern communities, from treacherous sea ice conditions to new, exotic diseases. There isn't much research in those fields, so across the Arctic, scientists are relying on anecdotal evidence from self-reported incidents like the whaling team rescue to piece together ways that climate change is threatening the health of already-vulnerable northern communities. [To read the full article, click here.](#)

Technarians at the Gate: How Google Could Become Your Next Power Company: Todd Pedersen, Vivint's founder, chief executive officer and seer-in-chief, has come to explain how he's steered what had been a burglar-alarm company into the electricity business, by plugging into the rooftop solar and digital energy-management revolutions. [Follow this link for the full article.](#)

Green Consumer Tips and How-To's

- ❖ Stop buying and drinking bottled water! Bring your own reusable water bottle everywhere you go.
- ❖ Wash your clothes on cold water, always! You will see your saving in energy in your bills.
- ❖ Dry your clothes on the line whenever you can.
- ❖ Take your bike and/or walk instead of drive your car at least once a week.
- ❖ Always remember your reusable shopping bags! And if you forget, paper is better than plastic!
- ❖ Compost! Build a vegetable bed and attend local farmer's markets.

Did you know....?

....that in June of this year, President Obama promised to cut U.S. greenhouse gas pollution by nearly 10% by 2020? For more information on how the plan to regulate carbon emissions in the U.S. could work [click here.](#)

....that air-source heat pumps act as heating and cooling, and can be more than 200% efficient? To learn more about this new technology, [visit this site.](#)

....that making a ton of paper from recycled paper saves up to 17 trees and uses 50% less water?

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