

## Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 4, Issue 5 May 2016 – Falmouth, Maine

- Have you had an energy audit or assessment done through Efficiency Maine or independently? Drop us a line at [reac@falmouthme.org](mailto: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 your Energy and Sustainability Coordinator a shout at [kdarling@falmouthme.org](mailto:kdarling@falmouthme.org) with your suggestions!
- Have a question about home energy? Drop us a line, we’re happy to help find you answers.

## Calendar of Local Green Events—May 2016

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date/Time/Location</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Maine Recycling and Solid Waste Conference &amp; Trade Show</b>	May 3—7:30am-4:15pm May 4—7:30am-2:45pm The Samoset Resort 220 Warrenton St., Rockport	For over two decades, Maine Resource Recovery Association has put together Maine’s only conference for the integrated Recycling & Solid Waste Management Industry. The conference is typically attended by over 200 private and public sector leaders. Dynamic developments in recycling and solid waste make this conference a must for anyone interested in sustainability practices. For event registration packet, schedule, and more information <a href="#">click here</a> .
<b>Introduction to Home Scale Permaculture</b>	May 4 (Wednesday evenings, May 11, 18) 6:30-8:30pm Gorham Recreation Department 75 South St., Gorham	Learn the basics of designing edible, ecological landscapes. This Introduction to Permaculture class will build your knowledge of design principles and techniques for establishing diverse, abundant, and functional landscapes. Topics to be covered include soils, plants, as well as reading the landscape. This course will have in-class lectures and outdoor discovery over the three meetings. Begin your journey for creating a regenerative and bountiful yard. For more information, follow <a href="#">this link</a> .

<p><b>Falmouth Rotary's Electronics Recycling Collection Day</b></p> 	<p>May 7 9:00am-1:00pm Falmouth Shopping Center Parking Lot-Rt. 1, Falmouth</p> <p>For more information call Anne Payson 781-2501 or Sean Joyce 232-4239</p>	<p>Households and businesses are welcome to come recycle their unwanted or broken electronics. <i>Donations to Falmouth Rotary requested.</i> Falmouth Rotary supports numerous local and international charities, including the Falmouth Food Pantry and Falmouth high school service trips to Safe Passage and Mississippi / Habitat for Humanity. <b>Items accepted include</b> TV's, computers, laptops, monitors, keyboards, printers, scanners, DVD players, VCR's, radios, stereos, microwaves, game systems, digital picture frames, telephones, answering machines, fax machines, cell phones, stereos, speakers, electric typewriters. <b>NO</b> appliances (ovens, washer/dryers, stoves, refrigerators, air conditioners), de-humidifiers or humidifiers, fluorescent light bulbs, mercury devices, or batteries will be accepted.</p>
<p><b>16<sup>th</sup> Annual Home Garden Flower Show</b></p>	<p>May 13-15 Fryeburg Fairgrounds Rt. 5, Fryeburg, ME 04037</p>	<p>Over 300 indoor booths in 7 buildings make this a great rain or shine event. For a list of exhibitors, seminar schedules and more information <a href="#">click here</a>.</p>
<p><b>Native Plants Festival &amp; Pollinator Parade</b></p> 	<p>May 14 10:00am-1:00pm Maine Audubon 20 Gilsland Farm Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>Kids and adults wear bee and butterfly costumes and participate in games and educational activities related to plants and pollinators. The parade takes place at noon and many families bring a picnic lunch to enjoy on the lawn after the parade. The parade seeks to bring attention to the critically low numbers of the Monarch butterfly and the plight of many pollinator species. Educational activities including crafts, a scavenger hunt, making seed balls, and a milkweed planting lesson will emphasize the steps we can take to help rescue the disappearing Monarch. The event will conclude with a community picnic in one of Cumberland County's most beloved wildlife sanctuaries.</p>
<p><b>Portland Local Food Networking Breakfast</b></p>	<p>May 17 8:30am Local Sprouts Café 649 Congress St., Portland</p>	<p>All are welcome for breakfast and talk of local food to include: casual breakfast with food organizers, advocates and producers of our community, food cooked with all local ingredients, networking encouraged, and a chance to promote your work and organizations to your peers.</p>

<p><b>She Blinded Me With Science! The Role of Science in Public Policy</b></p> 	<p>May 19 7:15-10:00am Congregation Bet Ha'aam 81 Westbrook St., South Portland</p>	<p>When taxpayer dollars are at stake, should the scientific research process be under more intense scrutiny in setting public policy? Should politics be allowed to stifle, or at least shape, scientific consensus? Is the role of science in public policy paramount in decision-making? And, what about the precautionary principal – should the lack of reliable scientific knowledge hold back developments in environmental, public health, food, and other potential advances? To read more about this event, and to see a list of the speakers, <a href="#">click here</a>.</p>
<p><b>Maine International Trade Day 2016</b></p> 	<p>May 26 12:00pm-7:00</p> <p>For event schedule, and to register, follow <a href="#">this link</a>.</p>	<p>The future of both Maine’s manufacturing and service sectors depends on integrating new innovative technologies. Whether incorporating big data in our marketing strategies or developing advanced robotics in our production lines, Maine business leaders must embrace new systems to compete in today’s global economy. Maine International Trade Day brings together experts in the ecommerce, robotics and advanced materials fields to discuss new technology and trends in key sectors to improve our overall productivity and efficiency. As we celebrate MITC’s 20th anniversary, Trade Day 2016 will feature an exciting line up of speakers and workshops that we hope will ignite new ideas, spark new collaborations, and build on the many creative capacities in Maine.</p>

## Energy News

**Despite Massive Support for Solar Energy Bill LePage’s Veto Stands as GOP Abandons Clean Energy Jobs in Maine**—the vote was 93-50, short of the two-thirds needed to override the veto. LD 1649, An Act to Modernize Maine’s Solar Power Policy and Encourage Economic Development, is now dead. “This is an extremely disappointing moment for solar power in Maine.” said Dylan Voorhees, Clean Energy Director for the Natural Resources Council of Maine. “It took years of hard work to hash out this broadly-supported solar policy that works for Maine. I’m so proud that Maine people, businesses, towns, and others stood up together to call for Maine to get out of last place on solar and reap the jobs, lower cost electricity, and pollution reductions it brings. Unfortunately the Governor and his allies worked aggressively to thwart the bill at all costs.” To read more, click [here](#).

**TideSmart’s Viridescent House Receives Passive House Certificate**—Steve Woods, owner of TideSmart has recently received a certification for his new Viridescent building to be one of only 5 buildings in the state to meet these standards. This “net positive” building is actively producing three times the amount of energy that the facility consumes—3-1 is the highest ratio in New England!

## Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

The Green Team with 98.9 WCLZ has really great tips on how to live sustainably—I listen to them on my ride into work almost everyday! Follow these links for their informative tips and videos:

[Cleaning Your Workplace](#), [Foam Alternatives](#) and [Planting Trees](#) are just a few examples.

## Did you know...?

...that the dryer is the third biggest energy draining appliance? A great alternative is [drying your laundry outdoors](#) or even air drying right in your laundry room on a rack, or hanging clothes up on hangers.

...Maine produces more electricity per capita from hydropower than any other state east of the Mississippi River?

...Maine has the highest per capita generation of electricity from biomass in the United States?

...Maine is the most petroleum dependent state for home heating, with the highest per capita consumption of heating oil in 2012?

...Maine homeowners pay more per month on heating oil than any other energy expense?

...Maine pays a higher percent of its GDP on residential energy than any state in the country?

...Maine is one of only three states where the industrial sector uses more than 30% of the state's energy, yet the industrial rate is well above the nation average?

...that due to regional pipeline capacity constraints, above market natural gas prices cost Maine ratepayers at least \$120 million and New England ratepayers at least \$1.4 billion in 2013 alone?

**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.