

## Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 5, Issue 10, October, 2017 – Falmouth, Maine

- It’s still nice and warm out during the day, but the morning and evenings are starting to feel a bit chilly. What do you do as the days begin to cool off, to prepare your home for the colder months to come?
- 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, or waste diversion? We’re happy to help find you answers.

## Calendar of Local Green Events-October, 2017

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date/Time/Location</b>	<b>Description</b>
 <p><b>Natural Resources Council of Maine</b></p>	October 4 11:30am-2:30pm Southern Maine Community College’s Midcoast Student Commons 29 Sewall St., Brunswick Landing, Brunswick	Join the Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) for an Electric Vehicle Ride and Drive on Wednesday, October 4. Take an extended lunch break and join NRCM and their co-sponsors to test drive multiple different electric cars. There will be Chevy Bolts and Volts, Nissan Leafs, Toyota Prius Primes, Audi A3 E-Trons, Fords, and VW E-Gulfs. You will have plenty of opportunities to talk to experts and electric vehicle dealerships about the different cars and driving electric. Come see what everyone’s charged up about!  For more information, contact NRCM Climate and Clean Energy Outreach Coordinator Sophie Janeway at <a href="mailto:sophie@nrcm.org">sophie@nrcm.org</a> or (207)430-0142.
 <p><b>SLOW MONEY</b></p>	October 4 1:00-4:00pm Christ Episcopal Church 1 Dresden Ave., Gardiner	Slow Money Maine is an intentionally inclusive, diverse network representing many sectors and communities in Maine, with a focus on supporting local sustainable food systems. They convene gatherings, connect people to each other’s needs, and catalyze the flow of funds and technical assistance to a wide array of food businesses. On October 4, they will be gathering in Gardiner for a pre-meeting focus group discussion on the Farm Bill. Visit their website <a href="#">by clicking here</a> for more information.

<p><b>Introduction to Passive House</b></p>  	<p>October 4 6:00-7:30pm Performance Building Supply 111 Fox St., Portland</p>	<p>Come get all your questions answered about Passive House building energy standards from experts Jesper Kruse of Maine Passive House and Jess Thompson of Kaplan Thompson Architects. They will talk about the history and theory behind Passive House, how it works best in Maine for all building types, and share built examples from real life. For more information, <a href="#">follow this link</a>.</p>
<p><b>E2Tech Full Moon Fall Harvest Networking Reception with MESAS</b></p>  	<p>October 5 4:30-7:00pm Little River Flower Farm 160 Turkey Ln., Buxton</p>	<p>Join E2Tech alongside the Maine Sustainable Agricultural Society (MESAS) and ArchSolar for their Full Moon Fall Harvest Networking Reception on October 5. You will have the chance to network with MESAS' and E2Tech's large community of business, energy, non-profit and agricultural professionals. The location of this networking reception, Littler River Flower Farm, is the site where E2Tech member ArchSolar has installed a 14.4 KW solar array into a structurally sound greenhouse: an environmentally and economically sustainable solution that allows the farm to raise crop outputs year-round, while generating their own renewable energy and reducing energy inputs overall. Join E2Tech for food, drinks, a full moon, a solar greenhouse, a bonfire, and a wonderful opportunity to make new valuable connections! More information can be found <a href="#">at this link</a>.</p>
<p><b>Maine Craft Weekend</b></p> 	<p>October 14-15 Statewide</p>	<p>Maine Craft Weekend (MCW), a statewide tour of Maine craft studios, breweries and businesses, is an opportunity for the public to explore the life and work of craft artists and craft breweries in Maine. MCW is a public, educational, community oriented, family friendly weekend, which is scheduled in conjunction with American Craft Week, a nationwide event promoting craft events each year in October. For more information on <a href="#">Greater Portland Events, click here</a>.</p>

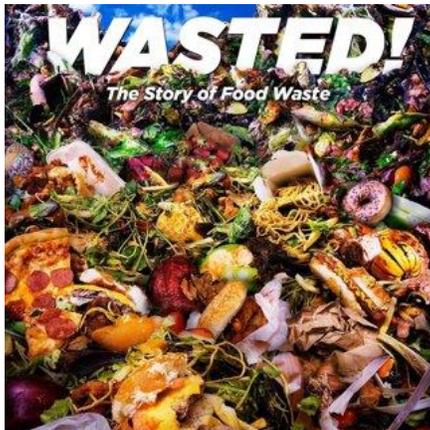
**Casco Bay Heat Pump Challenge—  
Falmouth Edition!**



October 14  
10:00am-2:00pm  
Mason-Motz Activity Center  
190 Middle Rd., Falmouth

You're invited to participate in the **Casco Bay Heat Pump Challenge**—an exciting new initiative to help you and other residents in the Greater Portland region save on your energy bill, improve your comfort of your home, and reduce your carbon footprint through installing cold climate heat pumps. At Challenge events, you'll get the chance to learn from energy experts about heat pump technology. The Challenge organizers have also selected a few of Efficiency Maine's vendors with great track records of fair, competitive pricing and good customer service. These installers—Dyer Electric, Goggin Energy, Pine State Services, ReVision Energy, and ReVision Heat—are providing special event-only discounts to people who sign up for a free site visit at Challenge events and move forward with a home installation (with an extra discount if enough attendees install a heat pump). For more information, visit [the Casco Bay Heat Pump Challenge Website](#) or contact Kimberly Darling, [kdarling@falmouthme.org](mailto:kdarling@falmouthme.org) or (207)699-5337.

**Film Screening of "Wasted! The  
Story of Food Waste"**



October 16  
4:00pm  
Rhine's Auditorium  
Portland Public Library  
5 Monument Sq., Portland

Come celebrate the First Annual Maine Gleaning Week and World Food Day with NRCM, their partners Maine Gleaning Network and Food Recovery Coalition, and others at this free event. The event begins at 4:00 p.m. with keynotes by Kristen Miale, President of Good Shepherd Food Bank and Steven M. Finn of University of Pennsylvania, LeanPath. You'll learn about World Food Day and Maine Gleaning Week, and have time to mingle with other guests to enjoy light refreshment, including food gleaned from local Maine farms, until the film begins at 5:30. After the film, you are invited to stay for a discussion.

<p><b>GrowSmart Maine's Annual Summit—First, Build a Bridge</b></p> 	<p>October 18 8:00am-6:00pm Dana Warp Mill 90 Bridge St., Westbrook</p>	<p>Maine's premier annual smart growth summit attracts leaders from across the sectors and across the state to share experiences, build knowledge, and create connections. The all-day event features success stories and replicable models through interactive morning tours and workshops nested in the host community followed by relevant and engaging smart growth sessions with experts in the afternoon. To register, and for more information <a href="#">follow this link</a>.</p>
<p><b>NRCM Conservation Leadership Awards</b></p> 	<p>October 19 5:30-7:30pm Maine Maritime Museum 243 Washington St., Bath</p>	<p>Maine is known and loved for its beautiful lands, lakes, rivers and coastline—we owe a lot to the individuals who have helped protect these natural resources. Each year, NRCM recognizes several of those who have made significant, lasting contributions to safeguarding our environment. This event is free and open to NRCM members and friends. The reception will begin at 5:30, where you will have an opportunity to meet NRCM staff and board members and recipients of this year's Conservation Leadership Awards. Enjoy light refreshments and a cash bar. The presentation will begin at approximately 6:30. For more information, and to see this year's award winners, <a href="#">click here</a>.</p>
<p><b>The Future of Fossil Fuels—Heating and Transportation Policy and Strategies</b></p> 	<p>October 19 7:15am-12:00pm Maple Hill Farm 11 Inn Rd., Hallowell</p>	<p>Home heating and transportation fuel consumption make Maine one of the most petroleum-dependent states in the nation, with the highest per capita petroleum consumption in New England. Maine has the highest CO2 emissions per capita in New England, with emissions coming mainly from the heating and transportation sectors. What is the future for fossil fuels in the transportation and heating sectors, and how can policy and other strategies positively shape the future in Maine? Attend this event for those answers! For more information, <a href="#">follow this link</a>.</p>

## Energy News

**Maine Island Completes Conversion to “90 Percent Cleaner” Energy**—the Monhegan Plantation Power District recently celebrated the completion of a more than \$1 million upgrade to a cleaner, more reliable, safer energy source in the form of diesel microturbines. For more on this story, [click here](#).

**LePage Nominates Sappi Mill Manager for Seat on Maine PUC**—the governor apparently believe Randall Davis will be in line with his priorities of lowering power costs and opposing most renewable energy incentives. Davis has worked for Sappi for 38 years, and has spent the past six years managing electric and natural gas contracts and other energy matters to maximize revenue at the mill. For the full story, [follow this link](#).

**Biggest Solar Project in Maine Coming to Farmington**—the \$100 million project, which is expected to break ground in the winter of 2018, will bring with it roughly 180 short term jobs throughout the construction phase, as well six to eight full time, permanent jobs once it is up and running. The hundreds of solar panels will be scattered on various plots of land throughout the Farmington area, covering a total of 600 acres. [Follow this link](#) for more.

**Con Edison Makes Investments in Clean Energy**—the company has been at the forefront of the renewable energy trend; overall, it has invested \$3 billion in large-scale solar and wind projects in recent years, and will continue to expand its footprint in clean energy with new plans to invest an additional \$3 billion in renewable energy production facilities over the next three years. Con Edison is partnering with Maine Power Express to bid on the Massachusetts Clean Energy request for proposals to bring clean energy to Boston. Their proposal would use an existing energy corridor to bring wind power from Aroostook and Penobscot counties to the Boston area. For more on this story, [click here](#).

## In Other News...

**Scarborough Food-Waste Reduction Project Fails Real-World Test**—about 150 residents in the Pleasant Hill neighborhood received weekly pick up of organics, but had trash and recycling picked up on alternate weeks. Based on preliminary results from the pilot food waste collection program, the town is unlikely to roll out the program town-wide. For more on this story, [click here](#).

**Climate Refugees Could see Safety in Maine**—climate projections indicate that Maine will remain relatively wet, despite periodic droughts. Having the attributes of abundant land and water could make the state a magnet for those escaping hotter, drier or storm-torn settings. “The population of Maine will increase dramatically in the next 20 years,” predicts Paul Mayewski, director of the University of Maine’s Climate Change Institute. “I truly believe that.” For this full story, [follow this link](#).

## Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

- Still running your air conditioner? STOP! Open the windows at night and let the cool air in; close them in the morning and draw the shades to keep the sun’s heat out
- Add light dimmers and/or occupancy sensors for a 20% or more savings on lighting costs
- Planting shade trees outside your home can save you up to 15% in the winter and as much as 50% in the summer on heating and cooling bills
- If you haven’t made the switch to LEDs yet, what are you waiting for? LEDs are 75% more efficient than other lighting options and those savings will pay them off quick!
- Perform basic weatherization; it’s not too early to start thinking about the cold months ahead. Repair holes and cracks around pipe penetrations and under sinks; weather strip or caulk doors and windows.
- Wash your clothes on cold and hang them out to dry! The energy saved by not heating up water or running the dryer is significant.

**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.