

Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 2, Issue 3 – March 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.

Save the date!



For REAC’s Movie Night, March 27, at the Falmouth Memorial Library! We provide snacks, drinks and wonderful conversation—join us!




(See calendar below for details)







Calendar of Local Green Events- March 2014

Event	Date and Location	Description
<p>Green Eggs-GPRO: The Exciting New Certification for Green Building Professionals</p> 	<p>March 5</p> <p>7:30am – 9:00am</p> <p>Maine Audubon, Gilsland Farm Education Center, 20 Gilsland Farm Rd, Falmouth</p>	<p>GPRO is a comprehensive national training and certificate program developed by the Urban Green Council, USGBC New York, and delivered in Maine by the USGBC Maine Chapter. This program teaches people how to build, renovate and maintain building principles of sustainability combined with trade-specific green construction knowledge. This certificate program will course materials including: fundamentals, construction, management, operations and maintenance essentials, electrical systems, plumbing and HVACR.</p>
<p>NRCM's "Of Moose and Main Street"</p>	<p>March 7</p> <p>4:00pm - 6:00pm</p> <p>Hampton Inn</p> <p>140 Commercial St, Bath</p>	<p>Join North Woods Project Director, Cathy Johnson, and special guest Marsha Donahue, of North Light Gallery in Millinocket, for "Of Moose and Main Street," a discussion about the proposed national park and what it could mean for the environment and the economy of northern Maine.. Light refreshments will be served.</p>
<p>Mid-Coast Green Sneakers Volunteer Home Walk Thru Training</p> 	<p>March 8</p> <p>9:00am – 12:00pm</p> <p>Evergreen Home Performance Office</p> <p>15 Tilson Street, Rockland</p>	<p>A professional auditor will train volunteers in the basics of weatherization, using a whole house as an energy system approach while looking at ways to improve the energy efficiency of homes. Volunteers will be asked to join the local Walk Thru Team to help conduct "home visits," assisting area homeowners in becoming more comfortable in their homes, energy efficient and pointing out available Efficiency Maine resources.</p>
<p>Capital for Opportunity and Change (CEI): Climate Change, Social Equity and Economic Opportunity</p>	<p>March 11</p> <p>7:00am-12:00pm</p> <p>3735 College St, Brunswick</p> <p>Bowdoin College</p>	<p>This year's keynote speaker is Steve Curwood, executive producer and host of NPR's award-winning weekly environmental news program, <i>Living on Earth</i>. Mr. Curwood will address climate change, social equity, and economic opportunity—globally and locally. Climate change is becoming part of our daily reality, affecting our environment, health, and economy. CEI's Annual Meeting attracts a diverse group of business, community and thought leaders, and offers outstanding networking opportunities. Please join them for this exciting opportunity to hear a leader on climate change address these prevalent issues, answer your questions and help Maine chart a course forward.</p>

<p>Environmental Communication: Water Words That Work</p>	<p>March 11</p> <p>9:00am-4:00pm Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve 342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells</p>	<p>This workshop is designed for people who need to communicate with public audiences about water resources, watershed management, and land conservation. This workshop will be held in segments, including, <i>"Perils of Preaching to the Choir"</i> as well as <i>"The Environmental Message Method."</i> You will learn to incorporate storytelling techniques into your message, and how to measure the reading level of your materials and determine if it is a good fit for your audience.</p>
<p>Portland Green Drinks</p> 	<p>March 11</p> <p>5:30pm-8:00pm Empire Chinese Kitchen 575 Congress St, Portland</p>	<p>Held on the second Tuesday of each month from 5:30 pm until 8:00 pm, a Greendrinks event helps greendrinkers of all shapes, sizes and backgrounds to meet and mingle in an informal setting. The venue changes from month-to-month, but the quality of the company never lags. Upwards of 250 greendrinkers typically show up at each Greendrinks event, so be prepared for an exciting atmosphere. And while you'll frequently find information on cool initiatives placed on display by the evening's host and sponsor (along with plenty of knowledgeable people to talk to), Greendrinks isn't an evening of seminars and speakers. So come on out to the next event and meet someone new!</p>
<p>Climate Solutions Expo and Summit</p> 	<p>March 12</p> <p>9:00am-5:00pm Augusta Civic Center 76 Community Drive, Augusta</p>	<p>350 Maine as part of a large coalition of environmentally concerned organizations is planning a one-day event, to bring together a broad representation of people working on climate change in Maine. One dozen Maine organizations from the non-profit, education, business and government communities. The goals of this expo and summit are to demonstrate to the legislature, state government, and the community at large that there is extensive support for action on climate change and already much work being done. The expo will bring together 80 different business, government, technology, education and community initiatives sharing their climate solutions with the general public. Join the Presidents of six Maine colleges and universities as they discuss how the State of Maine should move forward on climate mitigation and adaptation in relation to higher education, from 1:00-3:00pm.</p>
<p>A New National Park in Maine</p> 	<p>March 13</p> <p>6:00pm Bangor Public Library 145 Harlow St Bangor, ME</p>	<p>Please join NRCM and Lucas St. Clair, President of the Board of Elliotsville Plantation, Inc. (EPI) to learn more about EPI's idea to create a national park and national recreation area east of Baxter State Park. EPI has proposed to donate up to 150,000 acres to the federal government to create Maine's second national park. Lucas will describe his journey toward making this dream a reality, from his mother Roxanne Quimby's early attempts to create a park to his more</p>

		recent consensus-building efforts in the Katahdin region. NRCM North Woods Project Director Cathy Johnson will be there to share with you NRCM's role in this campaign to preserve more of the North Woods.
<p>Mobilize Maine - Energy Efficiency Workshop for Businesses</p> 	<p>March 14</p> <p>7:00am – 9:00am</p> <p>GPCOG</p> <p>970 Baxter Blvd, Portland</p>	<p>Rick Meinking, Business Program Manager for Efficiency Maine will give a presentation focusing on Efficiency Maine's Business Program incentives and assistance programs for businesses to reduce electricity consumption and costs by implementing energy-saving lighting, equipment and more. Efficiency Maine Business Programs provide cash incentives and independent technical advice to help businesses save energy, save money, and operate more efficiently. Since 2002, Efficiency Maine has paid cash incentives to help purchase and install energy efficient equipment for more than 6,000 projects at Maine businesses, large and small. Efficiency Maine offers prescriptive cash incentives up to \$100,000 on qualified projects including lighting, HVAC equipment, refrigeration and system controls. Custom incentives are also available for non-prescriptive projects that result in a yearly energy savings of 35,000 kWh or more. Come to the workshop to learn about the additional cash incentives and services Efficiency Maine offers to Maine businesses!</p>
<p>Old House and Barn Expo, Presented by the NH Preservation Alliance</p>	<p>March 15 and 16</p> <p>9:00 am – 5:00 pm</p> <p>Radisson/Center of New Hampshire</p> <p>70 Elm St, Manchester, NH</p>	<p>The 2014 Old House & Barn Expo, Presented by the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, will be held on March 15 and 16. This annual event is a must for anyone who feels passionate about the preservation of New Hampshire's vernacular. This year, ReVision Energy has the privilege to be speaking on behalf of the solar industry addressing topics including the economics of solar electric and solar hot water systems--including cost, current incentives, and overall payback; technical details; environmental considerations; and historical factors. Create your own show "itinerary" and explore garden, architecture, history and preservation strategies through free hourly lectures, over 60 exhibitors and many traditional arts demonstrators.</p>
<p>Competitive Energy Services (CES) Energy Seminar: <i>You Can't Get There From Here: Strategies for Surviving the Volatile Energy Markets and Taking Advantage of Sustainability Initiatives</i></p>	<p>March 18</p> <p>2:00pm-6:30pm</p> <p>University of Southern Maine, Portland</p>	<p>This seminar is an opportunity to speak with energy experts at CES and learn about the latest energy products, energy efficiency strategies, the regulatory environment, green options and more. There will be a cocktail reception immediately following the presentations. Despite record US production of oil, natural gas and propane, prices are affected by the ability to get these commodities to market. It has also proven to be a challenging winter in New England with harsh weather and record high energy prices. CES President & COO Jon Sorenson and CES Senior</p>

		<p>Vice President Andy Price will examine these and many other factors that have contributed to the continued volatility in the energy markets, and will discuss strategies and solutions for surviving these conditions. They will be joined by Patrick Woodcock, Director of the Governor's Energy Office and Joe Rose, President of the Propane Gas Association of New England.</p>
<p>Creating and Sustaining Vibrant Local Economies in Maine</p>	<p>March 22 9:30am-4:00pm University of Maine at Augusta (Randall Student Resource Center Lounge)</p>	<p>Organizers interested in building vibrant, local economies have arranged a statewide conference at the University of Maine at Augusta's <i>Randall Student Resource Center Lounge</i>, with other spaces available for work-groups throughout the day. Please make a commitment to Maine's future economy by attending and sharing your skills with others. Together, we can envision and begin building vibrant local economies within which we can all live in dignity, honor and joy.</p>
<p>Maine Maple Sunday 31 Anniversary and Open House Celebration</p> 	<p>March 22 and 23 All day event!</p> <p>High Acres Maple Syrup at Oak Hill Farm 14 Husky Haven off Triptown Road South Hiram, ME 04041</p> <p>352 Lower Dedham Rd. Holden, ME 04429</p>	<p>A pancake breakfast will be served in the heated breakfast barn both Saturday and Sunday of Maine Maple Weekend. The sugarhouse is attached to the barn and operated by the crew who can explain every aspect of our operation. The Barn Store is stocked with maple products and herbal teas. Come get your sugar fix at Maine Maple Sunday's weekend celebration!</p> <p><i>For more information, visit</i> http://www.oakhillfarm.com.</p>
<p>REAC Movie Night! Showing of the "Switch Energy Project"</p> 	<p>March 27 7:00pm</p> <p>Falmouth Memorial Library</p>	<p>Every energy resource — fossil, nuclear and renewable — is undergoing profound changes. And overall, we're gradually shifting from coal and oil to the energies of tomorrow. This sweeping transition is the subject of <i>Switch</i>. But rather than advocate for how it should happen, <i>Switch</i> travels the world to discover how it <i>most likely</i> will happen. <i>Switch</i> is also about a changing energy conversation. Today, it's polarized and unproductive. <i>Switch</i> focuses on practical realities and encourages a balanced understanding. Finally, <i>Switch</i> is about changing the way we use energy, to realize the many economic and environmental benefits of efficiency. <i>Switch</i> has been seen by nearly 4 million viewers worldwide, in theaters, university auditoriums, classrooms, on DVD and the web.</p> <p>Join REAC on Thursday night, the 27th for the film viewing followed by discussion afterwards!</p>

Energy News

An Electric Vehicle study was done by Charge Point, which has the largest EV charging station network, to determine the top 10 cities for EV car sales growth in the US. The Los Angeles region had the highest total number of sales, but in terms of EV sales growth rates, Atlanta come out on top, by a long shot. Find out the other cities in the top 10 list for EV sales growth in this [article](#).

ReVision held a Solar Home Tour in the Portland East End last month. A 116 year old house may seem like an odd fit for cutting-edge energy efficient installations, but a Munjoy Hill couple was able to blend the old with the new and save some heating dollars. [To read their story, click here.](#)

Good News From Efficiency Maine!

"Good news. We're seeing a record number of homeowners installing heat pump water heaters (1,400) in the last 7 months," reported Andy Meyer, Program Manager at Efficiency Maine. The \$300 rebates, along with the \$3,000 in energy savings are clearly making heat pump water heaters popular.

"What's even better is that customers are loving them," said Meyer. Of the customers surveyed, 80% ranked their satisfaction a nine or ten out of ten (and 100% ranked them favorably).

To find more information on rebate programs offered through Efficiency Maine, [click here](#).

Did You Know...?

...leaving your bathroom fan on after showering or the oven vent after cooking sends energy dollars out the roof?

...that you should be replacing/checking your furnace filters once a month?

...that home appliances can account for 13% of household's total energy cost? The most energy is typically used is towards refrigeration, cooking, and laundry. [Read this small experiment about the kilowatts used to run a hairdryer](#) for 10 days.

...that, according to the US Department of Energy, a typical US household consumes around 11,800 kWh of electricity per year, costing on average \$1,300 each year?

...drawing your blinds and shades in the morning can utilize passive solar heat, even on cloudy days, while closing them at night can reduce draft from the windows? However, air sealing your home is a must do for passive solar heating to be the most effective. [Read more here](#) about why and how to utilize passive solar in your home.

Green Consumer Tips and How-To's

Passive active solar elements, such as solar collector blinds, can reduce heating expenses in a home by 35%. Watch this short 3 minute [YouTube Video](#) about solar blinds, taking the sun and heating up the air in a house and distributing outside of the window or sliding glass door. During this time of year, when the sun is low, these work great on south facing windows.

Cleaning out the intake air vent on your hair dryer will make it run more efficiently and you will notice the difference and might be able to use it on a lower speed. Doing so will not only ensure the life of the product, but will also allow better air flow which keeps the heating element cooler and exhaust air warmer.

Light bulbs have changed quite significantly over the years. [According to these tips](#), you could be wasting money by not using the right bulbs for the right use. CFLs consume less energy, but aren't designed to be turned on and off frequently, so they shouldn't really be in a kitchen or bathroom, rather a porch where the light is left on for a longer duration of time.

Only use exhaust fans when necessary. During these cold winter months, it is crucial to keep the heat inside as much as possible. Exhaust fans in your kitchen and bathroom pull the hot air that rises in the ceiling out of the home. Shut them off right as you are done using them to save some heat loss.

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.