

## Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 2, Issue 4 April 2014 – Falmouth, Maine

- It finally seems as if the winter is coming to an end...what better time to start planning home energy improvements in your upcoming warmer months, to make your home more efficient for the next heating season.
- Have you had an energy audit and/or done some renovations to your home, either through Efficiency Maine or independently? Drop us a line at [reac@town.falmouth.me.us](mailto:reac@town.falmouth.me.us) and tell us about your home energy story!
- 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](mailto:kdarling@town.falmouth.me.us).



### A REAC Movie Night Update

On Thursday, March 27, REAC showed the movie, SWITCH at the Memorial Library in Falmouth. Committee members and a handful of residents viewed the documentary, which explores the transition from CO<sub>2</sub> emitting sources to CO<sub>2</sub> neutral sources as measured by energy needed to “power” 3.6 million people/year, which is the population of U.S.

Narrated by geologist & Professor Dr. Larry Tinker, the film explores different energy sources consumed in U.S. and other countries, and what would take to switch to carbon neutral sources. The documentary travels around the world, where in India 400 million people currently live without electricity, but things are likely to change within 20-30 years-- probably through coal use. China's middle class is also growing and both countries' economies will soon outstrip the U.S.'s, the film suggests. To learn more about the film, SWITCH, visit the website [here](#). Barb DiBiase, REAC member, writes, “It was a very eye opening film!”

*Be sure to visit the Falmouth town webpage and the [Upcoming Events](#) calendar for **our next movie showing at the library, on April 24 at 7:00pm!** Join us for light beverages, snacks and warm discussions. We hope to see you there!*

## Calendar of Local Green Events- April 2014

Event	Date/Time/Location	Description
<p><b>Solar for the Homeowner</b></p> 	<p>April 2 6:00pm-7:30pm</p> <p>Maine Audubon Society, Gisland Farm Rd, Falmouth</p>	<p>ReVision Solar will be at the Maine Audubon Society in Falmouth to answer any and all of your questions regarding solar energy. Come talk to professionals and learn about solar water systems, solar space heating, solar electricity, efficient electric heating systems, electric vehicle charging stations, and more. Come discover not only how these systems work, but also the incentives there are and what loan programs are available to get a solar system in your home.</p>
<p><b>Portland Home Show</b></p> 	<p>April 4 1:00pm-8:00pm April 5 10:00am-8:00pm April 6 10:00am-5:00pm</p> <p>Portland Expo 239 Park Ave, Portland</p>	<p>The 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Portland Home Show showcases over 300 vendors, and has brought in over 12,000 attendees annually. Admission is just \$7.00, and there is plenty of free parking. Bring your questions and ideas to the Home Show, to get all of your home projects well on their way. <a href="#">Home Show Coupon Here!</a></p> <p>There will also be a Home Show held in Bangor, at the Cross Insurance Center April 11-13, if you have friends or relatives who live in that area who may be interested.</p>
<p><b>Northeast Biomass Heating Expo</b></p>  <p>April 9-11, 2014 Cumberland County Civic Center - Portland, ME</p>	<p>April 10 5:00-7:30pm April 11 9:00am-1:00pm</p> <p>Cumberland County Civic Center, Portland</p>	<p>Check out the latest in heating products and services, and learn how you can save money on your home heating bill next winter. This expo will showcase geothermal, solar, cord wood and other alternative heating solutions. The expo is free and open to the public. Come to the expo for a chance of winning a <i>FREE</i> Pellet Boiler from Maine Energy Systems!</p>
<p><b>Solar Energy 101: How You Can Save Money &amp; The Environment</b></p>	<p>April 12 9:00am</p> <p>Shelter Institute 873 Route One, Woolwich</p>	<p>Did you know that Germany is the world's leader in solar energy, yet, Maine has about 30% more solar energy? Come learn everything there is to know about different solar energy systems and their costs, and how you can capture this wonderful abundant resource, benefit financially, and impact the climate and environment. Professionals from ReVision will be there to answer any and all of your questions.</p>

<p><b>Maine Indoor Air Quality Conference</b></p>	<p>April 16-17 Holiday Inn by the Bay, Downtown Portland</p>	<p>The Maine Indoor Air Quality Conference presents critical information for the creation, maintenance, and improvement of energy efficient, healthy, and sustainable spaces. Seminar Day will be held on April 16, with a keynote presentation, workshops and networking following on April 17. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.maineindoorair.org">www.maineindoorair.org</a> or call (207) 626-8115.</p>
<p><b>The 2014 “Wild &amp; Scenic Film Festival” at the Music Hall</b></p> 	<p>April 25 7:00pm-10:00pm</p> <p>The Music Hall 18 Chestnut St, Portsmouth NH</p>	<p>This year, ReVision Energy will be sponsoring the “Wild &amp; Scenic Film Festival”, which is the largest environmental film festival in North America. This year’s festival is themed “emPOWERment”, and will be a collection of short films that explore the environmental concerns and celebrations of our planet. Tickets are \$15.00.</p>
<p><b>Green Neighborhood Family Fest</b></p> 	<p>April 26 9:30am-1:30pm</p> <p>Deering High School Stevens Avenue, Portland</p>	<p>The <i>Urban Runoff</i>, a 5k race through neighborhoods and trail systems through Portland, will lead into the <i>Green Neighbor Family Fest</i>, where families and community members will be able to take part in hand-on activities about water, learn steps to becoming a green neighbor, and have an all-around great time! The cost of the event is free. The event will provide important information about clean water and building healthy communities- join in for a great cause!</p>

## Energy News

The solar energy rebate bill is moving forward in Maine, with a reinstated vote of 109-30 vote in the State House last week. Did you know that Maine is the only state in New England without current policies specifically designated to encourage solar energy? LD 1252 seeks to re-establish funding for Maine’s recently expired Solar Rebate Program that helps homeowners and businesses invest in solar by lessening upfront costs. The Senate has yet to vote on the final bill, so please call your senator today and leave a message urging him or her to support this bill: (800) 423-6900. Ask for a YES vote on LD 1252. It will be a close vote, so every call matters!

Earlier last month, Paris, France, imposed a car ban in attempts to reduce local air pollution. Before rolling out this car ban, high officials in Paris attempted to fight local air pollution by making public transportation free. Now, people living in the city must drive their cars on alternate days, depending on whether their plate number ends in an even or odd number. [Read more here.](#)

Suez Environnement, Europe’s second-biggest water company, and Chinese partners, agreed to build an incinerator near Shanghai to treat hazardous and medical waste that will generate steam and supply energy. The

plant will have the capacity to treat 30,000 tons a year of locally-generated hazardous waste and 3,300 tons of medical waste. [Read more here.](#)

At ecomaine's waste-to-energy facility, magnets have been used for years to pull out metals from the rest of the waste stream. Dr. Travis Wagner, professor in the Department of Environmental Science at the University of Southern Maine, conservatively predicts that "there's more than \$114 billion in metals buried in the country's landfills, just waiting to be mined." [In this article](#), read how ecomaine is extracting metals from their ash sites, and what they anticipate doing with these precious materials.

## *Did You Know...?*

...that driving with your windows down on the highway creates aerodynamic drag that can reduce fuel economy?

...that electric car batteries can be used until they are dead, just like the gas tanks can be run empty? For more electric car facts, [click here.](#)

...commercial buildings represent just under one-fifth of the country's energy consumption? According to the [US Department of Energy](#), office space, retail space and educational facilities represent about half of the commercial sector energy consumption.

...that the Town of Falmouth makes and sells compost? To watch a video on the steps taken to process the organic compost, and for more information on how to buy compost, [visit this site.](#)

...that you can receive \$5 for an old thermostat? You can bring your old thermostat to any participating retailer, household hazardous waste collection site, or thermostat wholesaler. Visit this website [visit this website](#) to find a participating collection site near you!

## *Green Consumer Tips and How-To's*

According to the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, replacing major appliances every fifteen years with more efficient ones, between 1995 and 2040, an average home will save over 180 MWh of electricity and over 20,000 gallons of water.

After being cooped up in your home all winter, it's finally time to open the windows and do a thorough spring clean! Here are [25 Green Spring Cleaning Tips](#) that are good for you, your home, and the planet.

As the snow melts, an opportunity to be green in your garden awaits. Here are some [proactive gardening steps](#) that are very easy to take, to help protect the planet—any many of these double as cost-savers, too!

**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.