

Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 3, Issue 12 December 2015 – Falmouth, Maine

- It’s hard to believe winter is already just around the corner. What are your plans to button up your home before the snow starts flying?
- Have you had an energy audit or assessment done through Efficiency Maine or independently? Drop us a line at 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 with your suggestions!
- Have a question about home energy? Drop us a line, we’re happy to help find you answers.
- How do you keep the waste down while hosting a get-together or party? We’d love to hear your tips!

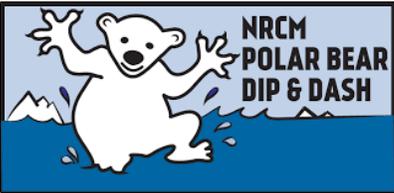
REAC UPDATE—

There will be a **Public Forum** held on **December 14th** regarding the **Ordinance on shopping bags**. Come give your support at **7:00pm at Town Hall in the Council Chambers**.

Calendar of Local Green Events- December 2015

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date/Time/Location</i>	<i>Description</i>
What’s Your Story? An Evening for Environmental Educators 	December 3 6:00-8:00pm Maine Audubon 20 Gilsland Farm Rd., Falmouth	Maine Audubon is excited to host this fun evening of stories and sharing! Join storied environmental educators for an informal evening teaching adventures and storytelling, and interpretive intrigues. Not only is this event free, but there will also be drawings for door prizes. For more information, follow this link .
Wood Pellet Heating Focus Group—GPCOG 	December 3—5:30-7:00pm December 9—5:30-7:30pm Greater Portland Council of Governments 970 Baxter Blvd., Suite 201, Portland	If you use wood pellets to heat your home or business, or are thinking of doing so, please join folks at GPCOG for a discussion of purchasing and delivering Maine-made wood pellets and whether there is interest to create a wood pellet buyer’s cooperative in Southern Maine. For more information, contact: Jennifer Brennan at jpuser@gpcog.org

<p>Pro Tour of a Passive House School and Net Zero Home, Falmouth</p> 	<p>December 4 1:00-5:00pm Mason Motz Activity Center 190 Middle Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>Join the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association for a BuildingEnergy Pro tour in Falmouth of a modular, net zero home as well as the nation's third Passive House-Certified School! Attendees will meet at the Mason-Motz Activity Center and ride together on a bus to the two sites. The tour of the first site will be led by Parlin Meyer of BrightBuilt Home. Phil Kaplan of Kaplan Thompson Architects will lead the tour of the second site. For more information including registration and event schedule, click here.</p>
<p><u>Shop Falmouth!</u></p> 	<p>December 5 10:00am-5:30pm Route 1, Falmouth</p>	<p>This event is sponsored by the Falmouth-Cumberland Community Chamber of Commerce and the Towns of Falmouth and Cumberland. Come join them for a day of shopping, dining and so much more! There will be horse-drawn wagons rides, a chili and chowder cook-off and their own Segway Santa. Don't miss out on your opportunity to support local business, while having lots of fun! For more information, follow this link.</p>
<p>Public Forum 2—Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan</p> 	<p>December 7 6:00-7:30pm Falmouth Town Hall—Council Chambers 271 Falmouth Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>Now that residents have given ideas regarding a Town Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, it is now time to review those recommendations within the drafted plan. Please help us prioritize these actions for Falmouth's draft 2013 Bicycle-Pedestrian Plan. For more information, contact Falmouth's Director of Long Range Planning at tholtwijk@falmouthme.org</p>
<p>2015 Maine Grassroots Climate Action Conference</p> 	<p>December 12 9:30am-4:00pm University of Maine at Augusta Randall Student Center 70 University Dr., Augusta</p>	<p>This all-day event will feature presentations by people working in Maine to curb climate disruption. Presentations will include community solar farms and town solar programs, energy efficiency outreach, plastic bag bans, as well as local community gardens. There will also be workshops for obtaining funding for these efforts, along with discussion of strategies for community organizing, and more. To RSVP and register, click here.</p>

<p>“Jobs, Justice, Climate: Defending New England’s Future”</p> 	<p>December 12 1:00pm Boston Common, Boston, MA</p>	<p>350 Maine is excited to support and participate in the “Jobs, Justice, Climate: Defending New England’s Future” event in Boston this December. They will rally to reinforce the ‘Road Through Paris’ intent on this last day of the United Nations COP21 in Paris. They will stand with many from across New England to demand full attention to jobs, justice and climate, acknowledging the undeniable intersection of all of these issues. Follow this link for more information.</p>
<p>Any Fin is Possible—Scaling up Maine’s Aquaculture Industry: E2Tech Forum and Holiday Reception</p> 	<p>December 15 4:30-7:30pm Gulf of Maine Research Institute 350 Commercial St., Portland</p>	<p>Maine is known world-wide for its lobster and fishing industry. Its aquaculture industry is growing, and its products will increasingly be in demand as the world’s appetite for sustainable seafood intensifies. Come learn about this vital industry that is continuously striving to achieve long-term economic viability with new, environmentally sustainable methods of producing seafood for domestic consumption and global exports. For more event information, click here.</p>
<p>NRCM’s Annual Polar Bear Dip & Dash in Portland’s East End</p> 	<p>December 31 Portland’s East End</p>	<p>Earn bragging rights while helping The Natural Resources Council of Maine raise awareness about climate change. Energy efficiency, clean air and renewable resources are priorities for NRCM, and every cent raised at this event will be used to directly support their work for a clean energy future in Maine. For photos and videos from last year’s event, and to register for this year’s, follow this link.</p>

Energy News

Maine Granola Company to be the First Solar-Powered, Net-Zero Facility in New England—the founders of GrandyOats, a growing granola and trail mix company, unveiled the 100 percent solar-power infrastructure. When the company moves this month from its former site, in a long-standing dairy barn in Hiram, it will be New England’s first net-zero food facility. The owners bought their new site, an old school which was abandoned in 2009, in the winter of 2014 to meet demand for their hand-made, organic products. Read the full story [here](#).

World Leaders Tackle Monumental Problem: How to Prevent Earth from Overheating—more than 150 world leaders gather to work out whether emissions targets should be binding or voluntary and how to help developing countries reduce their pollution. The biggest issue facing the 151 heads of state and government at the summit is who should bear most of the burden of closing the gap: wealthy Western nations that have polluted the most historically, or developing countries like China and India that are now the biggest and third-biggest emitters of greenhouse gases? Read more [here](#).

Winter Farmers Markets Expand across Maine—once a rarity in towns such as Brunswick and Saco, winter farmers markets are taking root and flourishing from coast to country. As local food becomes more popular, this food revolution has been coupled with farmers receiving grants for hoop houses to extend their growing season into colder months. These winter farmers markets are even becoming social hubs! Read more [here](#).

Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

- ✓ Deck the halls....with LEDs!
- ✓ Hosting a holiday party this month? If so, you can turn the thermostat down without worrying about company being uncomfortable. Each guest in your home is actually equivalent to a 175-watt heater! So dial the thermostat down a few degrees and bring on the holiday cheer!
- ✓ If you're not already composting, it's never too late to start. It can become burdensome having to compost more than just vegetable scraps as the colder temperatures roll in, but there are options to make it easier.

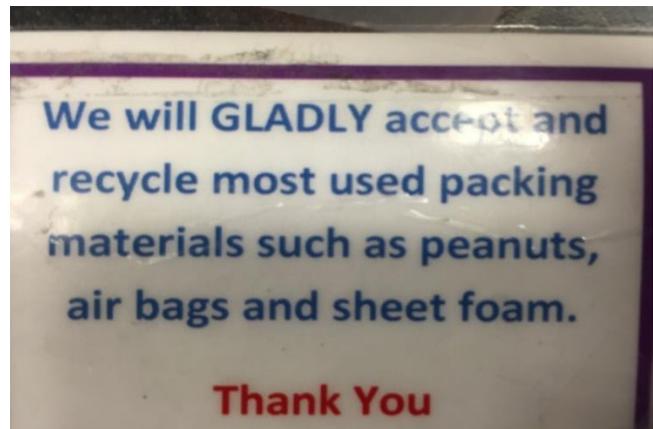
Did you know...?

...that LEDs use 75-80% less energy than incandescent bulbs? With this efficiency, they can save you a lot of money over the course of the entire holiday season.

...that LEDs don't typically burn out? A good quality set of LED lights will last about 25,000 hours—that's *ten times* the lifespan of incandescent bulbs!

...that Falmouth now offers FOOD WASTE composting services at the transfer station? You can bring all organic scraps, including meat you wouldn't traditionally compost at home, making it easier to divert organics from the waste stream. All you need is your transfer station sticker to participate.

...that the UPS Store in Falmouth accepts Styrofoam for no cost? Keep this in mind after the holiday season ends!



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.