

Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 3, Issue 6 June 2015 – Falmouth, Maine

- Spring is here! And summer well on its way!
- What are your home energy plans to prepare for warmer days ahead?
- 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 us a shout!
- **REAC members will be conducting a Falmouth Litter Cleanup!** Likely in the next few weeks—if you’d like to volunteer in keeping our streets clean, please contact Kimberly at kdarling@falmouthme.org for more information.

Calendar of Local Green Events- June 2015

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date/Time/Location</i>	<i>Description</i>
Green Eggs—Energy Monitoring 	June 3 7:30-9:30am Maine Audubon 20 Gilsland Farm Rd., Falmouth	Green Eggs is the U.S. Green Building Council’s Maine Chapter’s monthly breakfast forum featuring a speaker and topic relevant to green buildings. This month’s presenter is Rick Renner, Principal of Richard Renner Architects speaking on energy monitoring. For more information, and to register for the event, follow this link .
“Healthy Oceans Healthy Mainers” Presentation by Rep. Michael Devin	June 5 7:00pm Unitarian Universalist Church 1 Middle St., Brunswick	Michael Devin, marine biologist and State Representative will speak on ocean acidification, plastic debris in the marine environment and rising sea levels. Rep. Devin will also discuss legislation he has sponsored to address these issues and answer questions. This talk is free and open to the public.
REAC Movie Night! Film Showing of “Bag It” 	June 10 3:00pm & 8:00pm Falmouth Memorial Library 5 Lunt Rd., Falmouth 	Join REAC members and students with Falmouth High School’s Environmental Action Club (EAC) as they co-host the documentary “Bag It.” This 72 minute documentary exposes where plastics end up, their effects on the environment, as well as the effects they have on human health. Leo Maheu, Environmental Educator at ecomaine will be there to answer questions and explain how plastic film is problematic at ecomaine’s recycling facility. Refreshments will be provided. Come join us!

<p>Maine's Economy & Climate Change: Challenges and Opportunities</p> 	<p>June 12 8:00am-3:30pm Bowdoin College 225 Maine St., Brunswick</p>	<p>An unprecedented gathering of some of Maine's largest Chambers of Commerce; environmental, energy and research organizations will come together at this conference to explore the changes that climate change is bringing to Maine's economy, including both its challenges and its opportunities. For a list of the 31 partner organizations, 31 speakers, itinerary, and registration information, click here.</p>
<p>Wicked Cool Networking Mixer</p> 	<p>June 12 3:30-5:30pm Wicked Joe Coffee 35 Canam Dr., Topsham</p>	<p>This networking event will have food, drinks, specialty coffee cocktails and tours of Wicked Joe's <i>new roasting warehouse</i>. The 25,000 square-foot facilities are covered with solar panels, use automated LED lighting, electric car charging stations, and state-of-the-art energy efficient systems. Don't miss out on this wicked cool event!</p>
<p>ReVision Energy Yard Sale</p> 	<p>June 13 8:00am-12:00pm ReVision Energy—Portland Shop 142 Presumpscot St., Portland</p>	<p>Join ReVision at their Portland location for their first ever yard sale! All three warehouses are spring-cleaning and for this special event they will be liquidating solar electric and hot water collectors, inverters, tanks, electric fittings, plumbing parts, amongst other odds and ends. Showroom tours will be available upon request as are rides in their electric cars. To read more, follow this link.</p>
<p>Efficiency Maine—Triennial Plan III Stakeholder Conference</p> 	<p>June 17 8:30am-3:30pm Augusta Civic Center 76 Community Dr., Augusta</p>	<p>This meeting will describe the legal framework for Efficiency Maine and the Triennial Plan process, review current programs and recent results, summarize next steps in the development of the three year plan, and provide an initial opportunity for stakeholders to provide input. Trust Staff will be holding a series of online webinars throughout the summer and a second in-person meeting in September on the Triennial Plan for those who can't make it to the June meeting. Visit Efficiency Maine's website for more information.</p>

<p>Energy Storage: Saving for a (Renewable) Rainy Day</p>  <p>UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE</p>	<p>June 18 7:15-9:30am USM Portland Campus Talbot Lecture Hall (Luther Bonney) 85 Bedford St., Portland</p>	<p>The case for increased renewable generation may rest on growth in the distributed and grid-scale energy storage markets, and in finding solutions to intermittency of wind and solar. Renewable energy, such as solar and wind, aren't always available—if the sun isn't shining or the wind isn't blowing. On-site batteries, power control systems, emerging technologies, cost trends and the rise of a robust electric vehicle and infrastructure market will impact how Maine developers, utilities, and customers operate and manage storage systems for variable generation. For more information about this forum click here.</p>
<p>2015 CES Energy Seminar and Cocktail Reception</p> 	<p>June 23 2:00-6:30pm Moulton Union, Bowdoin College 225 Maine St., Brunswick</p>	<p>This seminar is an opportunity to speak with your energy experts at Competitive Energy Services (CES) and learn about their largest energy products, energy efficiency strategies, the regulatory environment, green options and more. This seminar is free and open to the public. For a list of speakers, how to register, and more information follow this link.</p>
<p>MaineFare 2015</p>  <p>JUNE 26+27</p>	<p>June 26-27 Steamboat Landing Park & The Boathouse, on the waterfront in Belfast</p> <p>For location and lodging information click here.</p>	<p>The Maine Farmland Trust and Penobscot East Resource Center present MaineFare, a two-day festival filled with good food, and food for thought. MaineFare celebrates the bounty of Maine. Join farmers, fishermen, artisan producers, chefs, organizations, and eaters for two days full of tasting and learning about Maine's diverse and abundant food systems! For more details, visit this link.</p>

Energy News

New Law Permits Maine EV Charging Stations to Charge for Power—The Greater Portland Council of Governments reports that Governor LePage signed a new law allowing the owners of public electric vehicle charging stations to charge customers a fee for the kilowatt usage when they plug in their electric vehicles. The law will provide an incentive for more electric vehicle service equipment be installed throughout the state, giving EV owners more places to charge their vehicles, over the current 44. The law will go in effect 90 days after the Legislature finishes its 2015 session.

LePage, Clean-Energy Advocates Clash over Governor's Agenda—the Governor has submitted three bills aimed at lowering energy costs; but clean-energy advocates believe that the measures would dismantle years of State policies that support renewable energy and efficiency programs. To read the full article, follow [this link](#).

King Floats Hydrokinetic Bill—on Earth Day of this year, Senator Angus King re-introduced “the Marine and Hydrokinetic Renewable Energy Act” to encourage the research and development of renewable energy generation through waves, currents, ocean tides and free-flowing water in lakes and rivers, known as marine and hydrokinetic power. Read more [here](#).

Economic Report on Energy in Maine Released—In February 2015, the Maine Development Foundation and the University of Maine released their fifth Quarterly Economic Report on Energy in Maine. Within the report, the Measure of Growth Cost of Energy indicator tracks retail and industrial electricity prices for Maine, both of which have declined in recent years. Nevertheless, Maine’s costs of energy remain high relative to the nation. Download the full report by clicking [this link](#).

Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

- ❖ **Wash your dirty car!** While you may think you’re doing your car (and your wallet) a favor by hand-washing it at home, it’s actually the opposite.
- ❖ **Shade your windows**—it sounds simple enough, but when you consider the huge difference it makes, you’ll wonder why you still have naked windows. Light colored blinds and drapes will reflect the sunlight, instead of absorbing it—which can also save you up to \$200 in heating and cooling costs.
- ❖ **Clean up your air conditioner**—in terms of maintenance, it’s important to change the air filter in your AC unit. The clogged air filter will cause poor air circulation, making the unit work harder. If you have pets or easily accumulate dust at home, change it twice a month. Also, use your AC in conjunction with a fan to better distribute the cool air.
- ❖ **Use natural air fresheners**—to really freshen up a room, try opening a window first instead of spraying chemicals. Next, invest in houseplants and/or fresh cut flowers.

For more spring and summer energy-saving tips, follow [this link](#).

Did you know ...?

...the average home car wash uses 80-140 gallons of water while the commercial average is 45 gallons? According to the National Car Wash Association, automatic car washes use less than half the water used compared to washing your car at home.

...driving with your window down is more efficient in terms of keeping your car and yourself cool for city (low speed) driving, while it’s more efficient to close up the windows and use the AC on the highway?

...indoor plants can reduce indoor air pollution? Some of the plants tested by NASA which have shown to remove benzene, trichloroethylene, and formaldehyde from the air include: the peace lily, spider plant, golden pothos, mother-in-law’s tongue, bamboo palm, ficus, pot mum and gerbera daisy.

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.