

Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 4, Issue 7 July 2016 – Falmouth, Maine

- Have you had an energy audit or assessment done through Efficiency Maine or independently? Drop us a line at react@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.
- It’s that time of year again—summer is here! How do you keep the waste and energy consumption down while barbecuing, entertaining guests, or going on trips?

REAC is looking for new members! Interested in joining our team? Apply online at www.falmouthme.org to get involved in our work making Falmouth a sustainable place to live, work and play!

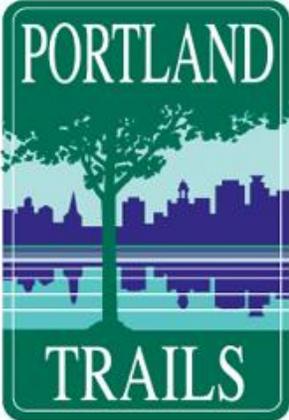


Calendar of Local Green Events—July 2016

[How to have an eco-friendly 4th of July](#)

Event	Date/Time/Location	Description
<p>Food Preservation—Hands-On Workshops Topic: Low-Sugar Berry Jam</p> 	<p>July 7 5:30-8:30pm University of Maine Regional Learning Center 75 Clearwater Dr., Suit 104, Falmouth</p>	<p>Ever wonder how to preserve all of those great garden vegetables? The University of Maine’s Cooperative Extension’s hands-on-food preservation workshops will teach you the basics of canning and freezing, including how to use pressure canners and water baths to preserve pickles, jams, and vegetables. Cost to attend is \$20, but they will provide fresh produce and canning jars—please bring a potholder to the workshop. For more information and to register, click here.</p>
<p>Fisheries Restoration in Maine: A Community Effort</p> 	<p>July 7 6:30pm Falmouth Memorial Library 5 Lunt Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>Dwayne Shaw, Downeast Salmon Federation’s Executive Director, will discuss river and stream restoration efforts over the past few decades and what communities across the state have been doing to improve the future of fish for both the environment and the people of Maine. Join REAC as they co-host this event and see how resourcefulness and determination can rebuild and maintain fisheries on New England’s Coast, and how you can be involved in this important work.</p>

<p>Portland Greendrinks</p> 	<p>July 12 5:30pm Visit the Green Drinks' Website for this month's location</p>	<p>Portland Greendrinks is part of the international Greendrinks network — an informal, volunteer-managed social networking group built around a common interest in the natural environment. It occurs on the second Tuesday of every month, starting at 5:30 pm. The goal of Greendrinks is pretty simple: good times shared among people working in, or interested in, environmental and sustainability issues. Portland Greendrinks is a project of the Maine-based non-profit, The Triceratops Group, founded by Elliott May in January 2010.</p>
<p>Solar Open House —Falmouth Residents</p> 	<p>July 14 6:00-7:30pm The Mahoney Residence 186 Falmouth Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>Join ReVision for this exciting solar open house where the homeowners have both solar hot water and a solar electric system. The Mahoney residence first invested in solar to reduce the amount of energy heating their domestic hot water. In 2009 they had hot water panels installed on the front of their house with two well insulated hot water tanks to keep their oil boiler off during the summer months. In 2015 they reconsidered solar electricity; the installation cost being less than half of what it was in 2009, they were able to install a system twice as big as originally quoted for less money than they would have paid. In early 2016 they installed (28) 260 watt solar electric panels on the roof of their barn expected to produce on average 7,608 kWhrs over the course a year. Come join us to ask questions and learn more!</p>
<p>AWEA Regional Wind Energy Conference 2016—Northeast</p> 	<p>July 19 7:30am Portland Marriott At Sable Oaks 200 Sable Oaks Dr., South Portland</p>	<p>The American Wind Energy Associations (AWEA)'s next regional conference will focus on the critical issues that will help advance wind power's growth issues in the northeastern U.S. The event will also provide attendees with a comprehensive view of both land-based wind power development and the nascent efforts to develop offshore wind power off the region's coast. For more event information, and to register, follow this link.</p>

<p>15th Annual Maine Lobster Ride</p> 	<p>July 24 All day event Camden Snow Bowl 20 Barnestown Rd., Camden</p>	<p>The Bicycle Coalition of Maine's Lobster Ride & Roll follows winding, country lanes and the breathtaking rockbound coast past lighthouses, lupines and lobster boats. The ride features five distance options, from a family-friendly 15 miles to a century (plus) that was recognized by Bicycling Magazine as one of the TOP TEN centuries in the country. As a bonus, every first-time rider who is not a member of the Coalition will receive a FREE six-month trial membership! To register, and for more event information, follow this link.</p>
<p>Portland Trails at Sundays on The Boulevard</p> 	<p>July 24 9:00am-4:00pm Back Bay Boulevard, Portland</p> <p>*Starting Sunday July 3, all local traffic will be closed around Baxter Boulevard</p>	<p>Portland Trails hosts a special Sunday on the Boulevard!</p> <p>Every Sunday, Baxter Boulevard is closed to car traffic, and turns into an active transportation playground! Come on down for a picnic, a bike ride, a game of pick-up street hockey and more. Co-hosted by: the City of Portland, Portland Trails, Bicycle Coalition of Maine, and the Back Cove Neighborhood Association.</p>

Energy News

Maine Biomass Generators Get Deadline to Bid for Above-Market Deals—The Maine Public Utilities Commission opened bidding on contracts for electricity generated by biomass in a process that could use up to \$13.4 million in tax dollars to pay for two-year above market contracts. The commission set a July 29 deadline for bids in the case initiated to help the state's logging industry which, with multiple paper mill closures, has seen markets for softwood tree species erode steadily. Read full story [here](#).

LePage Orders Study of Health Effects of Ethanol Emissions— the Governor said in a statement that he issued the order because of federal mandates that have spurred increased production and use of ethanol as a fuel additive to combat air pollution. "It's important that with the increased use of ethanol-mixed gasoline that we understand the environmental and health risks associated with it," LePage said. "This Executive Order will help identify data so we can make better informed decisions regarding the use of ethanol." To read more, follow [this link](#).

NGL Looks for New Propane Depot Site in Southern Maine—The Oklahoma Company, NGL Energy Partners, is still seeking a new site for a liquefied petroleum gas depot in Southern Maine after the state acquired the company's leased distribution site in Portland. The City of South Portland rejected the company's plans to build a new facility at Rigby Yard; read the full story [here](#).

Buyer Emerges for Bankrupt SunEdison's Massive Aroostook Wind Project— The San Francisco-based wind energy investors Pattern Energy Group Inc. has reached a deal with the now-bankrupt SunEdison to buy development rights for what would be the state's single-largest wind farm, located in southern Aroostook County. Pattern has agreed to buy rights to SunEdison's proposed King Pine wind project for about \$26.5 million, conditioned upon the project winning a supply contract from a group of southern New England states that solicited clean energy proposals in February. Follow [this link](#) to read more.

In Other News...

Lincolnville Charts its Own Course to Send Trash to Portland's ecomaine— On June 16, voters in Lincolnville overwhelmingly approved entering into a 20-year contract with ecomaine, a Portland nonprofit owned by 20 municipalities, for the disposal of municipal solid waste. That Lincolnville vote is significant, because four towns — Camden, Hope, Lincolnville and Rockport — have been operating as a corporation for decades in getting rid of their trash. For the full story, [click here](#).

Falmouth Leads the Charge against Invasive Plants on Public, Private Land—Falmouth is at the forefront of efforts to reverse the spread of invasive plants in Maine. In the past five years the town has beaten back infestations on public land, and it is now in the second year of a program to kill roadside invasives by spraying them with a 2% glyphosate solution. While the town can only spray in its right-of-way, landowners can pay extra for treatment on their property. For the full story, follow [this link](#).

Freeport Approves Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags—Come September 12, the bag ban will prohibit grocery and convenience stores from offering thin, disposable plastic bags and place a 5-cent fee on paper shopping bags. The ban won't affect retailers. Read more [here](#).

Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

Sometimes it's hard to avoid all of the summer-time driving. Here are tips to drive as efficiently as possible as you visit friends, family and all of your travel destinations this summer:

- Eliminate the weight—no matter what kind of car you drive, eliminating weight can go a long way toward increasing your car's fuel efficiency. The EPA estimates that, for every extra 100 pounds your car carries, it loses 2% in fuel economy. So just by cleaning up your act, you can start on the road to saving.
- Properly inflated tires will make your ride more efficient—this one is often overlooked; properly inflated tires have less contact with the road, which means they encounter less friction, so the engine doesn't have to work as hard to move the car.
- Eliminate your need for speed—when you stop, start, or accelerate, your car has to overcome inertia. You can use less energy to overcome inertia if you do it slowly. Not only will coasting save gas, but you might not even have to come to a complete stop before the light turns green, meaning that your car will have to overcome must less inertia to get going again.
- Time to trade in for a more efficient car? Hybrid models and electric vehicles have come a long way. Not ready to buy a new car? How about sharing the car you have? Car pool as much as possible this summer!

Did you know...?

...that sudden starts and aggressive driving not only wastes your gas, but this type of driving behavior adds to pollution? A lot of us like to gun it on the highway, pushing the speedometer up to 75 mph, but slowing down to 65 mph can increase your fuel economy by up to 10%, and decrease the amount of the pollution coming from your car.

...that every three pounds below your vehicle's recommended tire pressure, reduces your fuel economy? Be sure to check air pressure monthly. When it's time to replace your tires, consider switching to a low-rolling-resistance set designed to improve gas mileage.

...that a tune-up can help you save about 4% on gas mileage? Be sure to use an eco-friendly service station that recycles used fluids or safely disposes them. Changing the oil will help your car last longer—and help you save at the pump.

...that the gasoline sold during the summer is actually different and more expensive to produce, than that sold in the winter? It's because of the EPA's Reformulated Gasoline Program which was established through the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments. The EPA started this program in order to reduce pollution and smog during the summer ozone season, which occurs from June 1 to September 15. Summer-blend fuels use different oxygenates, or fuel additives to meet these requirements.

...there is a Portland Maine chapter of a national group called Citizens' Climate Lobby? This group is proposing a carbon "fee & dividend" model that would help transition us to a cleaner economy, create jobs, and benefit over half of households financially. The group has over 35,000 supporters so far and just held their 7th annual conference in Washington DC. [Here is a link](#) to their work with information on how you can get involved.

...that there is a Northeast Climate Ride scheduled in early September from Bar Harbor to Boston? This 5-day, 390-mile route takes advantage of the best cycling in Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. Participants ride along the North Atlantic's scenic coastline by day and spend evenings with an amazing community of people. Upon registration, participants will have an opportunity to choose from more than 150 beneficiaries making an impact on environment, sustainability and active transportation causes. More information can be found [here](#).

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.