

Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

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

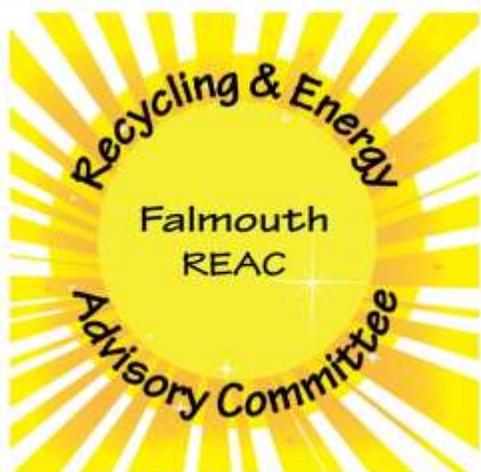
- Have a question about recycling, energy efficiency or weatherization? E-mail us!
- Questions about energy efficiency or weatherization, just shout!
- Have you had an energy audit and done some renovations, either through Efficiency Maine or independently? Drop us a line at reac@town.falmouth.me.us – 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.

A REAC Update!

REAC’s first Home Energy Savings Fair held Saturday, January 25 was a success! The fair was a new form of residential outreach for REAC, after having put on workshops and warm house parties over the last two years. Residential energy savings has been a focus for us as it accounts for 43% of our community footprint (2007) and represents a significant home expense.

REAC was able to estimate a total of 237 attendees, not including school staff, committee members, or vendors. In a vendor survey, an individual quotes, “I heard positive comments from attendees as well as vendors. The event felt friendly as opposed to home shows that have no vibe. Well done!”

We’d love additional feedback from the public! If you attended the event, please take just a few minutes to fill out [this quick survey](#). We cannot thank you enough!



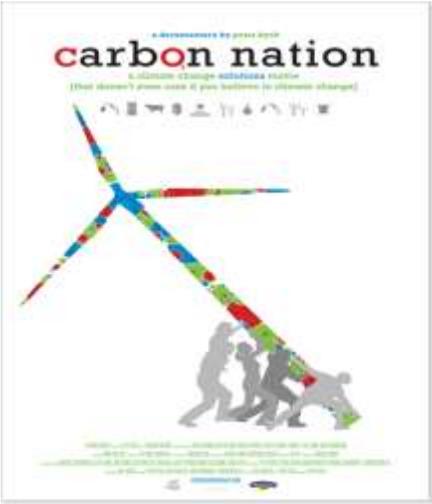
Save the date!

For REAC’s Movie Night, February 27
at the Falmouth Memorial Library
(see calendar below for details)



Calendar of Local Green Events- February 2014

Event	Date/ Time/ Location	Description
<p>University of Maine at Farmington's Forum Series: Nature, Nurture and Technology: Biology's Next 150 years</p> 	<p>Feb 3-6 University of Maine at Farmington</p> <p>Exact dates, times and locations for these Farmington Forum events will be posted as they are finalized - check back soon.</p>	<p>Events include a presentation from a science historian's perspective, which involves how the history of science might influence its future. The Forum also includes a panel of UMF faculty and alumni discussing advances we expect in the next 150 years and their impact on human health and the environment.</p> <p>For More Information email: jeandoty@maine.edu Call: 207-778-7366</p>
<p>Green Eggs Case Study: UNE Dental School</p>	<p>Feb 5 Maine Audubon, Gisland Farm Education Center, 20 Gisland Farm Rd, Falmouth 7:30am-9:00am</p>	<p>Green Eggs is a breakfast forum brought to you by the U.S. Green Building Council's Maine Chapter. Breakfast will be prepared by Local Sprouts Cooperative and will take place from 7:30-8:00am. A 45 minute presentation will follow breakfast, as well as a Q&A and discussion period. To register for the event, click here or e-mail programs@maineusgbc.org to reserve your spot.</p>
<p>Going Solar in Scarborough- Open House with ReVision Solar</p> 	<p>Feb 5 Scarborough High School, 11 Municipal Drive Room A101 6:30pm-8:00pm</p>	<p>Join ReVision's energy consultant, Geoff Sparrow at the Scarborough High School to learn about solar how water systems, solar space heating, and solar electricity systems. Electric vehicle charging stations will also be discussed, along with much more. Find out what makes a home a good solar candidate, the costs of these systems, as well as incentives and loan programs that are available, and what can be expected for a return on investment. Bring questions!</p>

<p>“Is Conservative Environmentalist an Oxymoron?”</p>	<p>Feb 7 Bowdoin College 3725 College St, Brunswick Hubbard Hall, Room 208 4:00pm-6:00pm</p>	<p>Professor Steven F. Hayward is currently the inaugural visiting scholar in conservative thought and policy at the University of Colorado. He holds a Ph.D. in American Studies and an M.A. in Government. He writes often on subjects including environmental, law, economics, and public policy for publications including National Review, Reason, and many others. For more information regarding his lecture being held at Bowdoin College, click here.</p>
<p>Environmental Justice: At the Crossroads with Public Health, Conservation Politics, and Generational Change</p>	<p>Feb 8 Bowdoin College 3725 College St, Brunswick Schwartz Outdoor Leadership, Beebe Room 10:00am-4:00pm</p>	<p>This program will bring together experts in the environmental justice movement who will focus on the interconnected issues of environmental health and conservation politics. Speakers will also discuss the importance of equity, inclusiveness and diversity in the future of the environmental movement and social change. For more information, visit this site.</p>
<p>Carbon Nation Film Showing</p> 	<p>Feb 13 Portland Public Library, Monument Square, Portland 5:30pm-8:00pm</p>	<p>Head to the Portland Public Library for a showing of the film <i>Carbon Nation</i>. George Jacobson, the State of Maine Climatologist and <i>Professor Emeritus</i>, Climate Change Institute & School of Biology and Ecology will address the group on the topics of climate change, energy and ecology and introduce the film. Refreshments will be served. The cost to attend is \$5 at the door.</p>
<p>The Maine Outdoor Film Festival</p> 	<p>Feb 14 The Unity College Center for the Performing Arts 42 Depot St, Unity, ME Shows until 7:00pm</p>	<p>Films in the festival represent a diverse selection of outdoor disciplines that celebrate the active outdoor community and inspire expression. The Maine Outdoor Film Festival began in 2012, and proceeds from last year and this year will go directly to Teens To Trails. To learn more about the Teen To Trails non-profit grassroots organization, and to view the films in order of appearance, click here.</p>

<p>Solar Open House in Falmouth</p> 	<p>Feb 15 160 Woodville Rd, Falmouth 9:00am-10:30am</p>	<p>Claudia King and Lindsey Tweed will be welcoming the public to their home on February 15th. Originally built in 1975, this home has passive solar features and a variety of salvaged materials, including posts and beams from a 19th century mill building. This home produces over 7,000 kilowatt hours of clean, solar electricity each year and their domestic hot water is provided by solar evacuated tubes with back up to the hot water coming from electricity. The primary heating is provided by low energy air source heat pumps, with supplemental heat coming from a wood stove. Deep eaves and slatted sunshades help prevent overheating in the summer, while allowing winter solar gain. Come learn about the possibilities in making an old home very energy efficient!</p>
<p>Green Career Series: Corporate Sustainability</p>	<p>Feb 19 Bowdoin College 3725 College St, Brunswick Visual Arts Center, Beam Classroom 7:00-8:00pm</p>	<p>The Green Careers series is a casual and fun way to learn about green careers. Professionals with careers in Corporate Sustainability will deliver 10 minute presentations followed by Q & A. This program is a project of the Emerging Professionals Committee of the U.S. Green Building Council, Maine Chapter, and hosted by the Bowdoin College Career Planning Center and the Environmental Studies Program. Questions? Call 207-725-3396.</p>
<p>Solar Energy 101 Library Talk</p>	<p>Feb 19 Wadleigh Memorial Library, 49 Nashua Street, Milford, NH 7:00-8:30pm</p>	<p>Wondering if your home or business is suited for solar PV or solar hot water? Curious to know how much these systems cost? What incentives are currently available? What can be expected for a return on investment? Join ReVision Energy at this library talk to discover that solar systems are reliable, affordable and a sensible investment.</p>
<p>REAC Movie Night!</p> 	<p>Feb 27 Falmouth Memorial Library 6:00pm</p>	<p><i>A Fierce Green Fire: The Battle for a Living Planet</i> will be shown on February 27. Spanning 50 years of grassroots and global activism, this 2012 documentary brings to light the crucial stories of the environmental movement where people fought, and succeeded, against enormous odds. From halting dams in the Grand Canyon to fighting toxic waste at Love Canal; from Greenpeace to Chico Mendes; from climate change to the promise of transforming our civilization, <i>A Fierce Green Fire</i> is "nothing less than the history of environmentalism itself." (Los Angeles Times). Please join the REAC committee at the showing of this film!</p>

Energy News

President Obama recently signed a memorandum formally launching the Quadrennial Energy Review, a survey of U.S. energy production, infrastructure, and transport set to be completed by an interagency task force. A task force led by high-ranking officials from the White House Domestic Policy Council and the Office of Science and Technology Policy. The Department of Energy will carry out a wide-ranging initiative to survey the American energy landscape and ensure that domestic energy-security objectives align with current energy policy. For more information visit [this site](#).

Maine has no Goals for Photo Voltaic Electricity Production, [direct link](#)

Massachusetts has a goal of producing 1,600 Mega Watts (MW) by 2020 - goal 250 GW in the next half century. California's goal is 12,000 MW.

Currently there is a bill in the legislature LD 1652 introduced by Senator Vitelli of Sagadahoc County creating the Maine Solar Energy Act setting modest goals of 40 MW installed capacity by 2016, 200 MW installed capacity by 2020 and 500 MW installed capacity by 2030. In summary the act:

1. States specific legislative findings that it is in the public interest to encourage development of solar energy production in the State. This includes finding that solar energy development makes a significant contribution to the general welfare of the citizens of the State and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions;
 2. Requires the Public Utilities Commission to take specific measures regarding solar energy, including monitoring development and market trends and determining the value of distributed solar energy generation;
 3. Requires the State, including the Small Enterprise Growth Program, the Maine Technology Institute, the Maine Rural Development Authority, the Finance Authority of Maine and the Department of Economic and Community Development, to seek opportunities to promote solar energy development, generation and manufacturing within existing programs; and
 4. Establishes state solar energy generation goals.
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Augusta--For the fourth year in a row, Republican Gov. Paul LePage's administration is pushing to roll back or significantly change portions of Maine law aimed at boosting in-state renewable energy production.

LePage says he wants to level the state's energy-production playing field and open the door to cheap, renewable hydropower from Quebec and maritime Canada, an idea to which Canada seems lukewarm. [Read the full article here](#).

Did You Know...?

...that renewable energy in the US accounted for over 37% of all new electricity generating capacity in 2013? Solar alone added 2,963 MW of new capacity over the year, up 44% on the 2012's 2,056 MW. According to Federal Energy Regulatory Committee's figures, renewable energy sources now account for 15.97% of total installed operating generating capacity in the country.

...that is possible to have a ZERO WASTE HOME? Ever heard of "bottle bricking"? Read more [here](#).

...that plastic outweighs plankton in our oceans 24:1?

...that glass can be recycled indefinitely?

...that 500 billion plastic bags are used hourly worldwide?

...that Americans throw away on average two BILLION disposable razors each year?

Green Consumer Tips and How-To's

[In this article](#), read ways to *Make Your Heating Fuel Stretch, drop by drop*, which suggests ways to determine home energy baselines, evaluate heating options, find incentives, weatherize and more.

Learn about the dangers of, and three alternatives to plastic containers [here](#)

Read about Eco-Friendly shaving supplies and sustainable alternatives [in this article](#).

Here are 16 top ways to Go Green, from conserving water and energy, to eating healthier, organic and local foods. Read more [here](#).

Thinking of ways of Going Green at home? Read thousands of ideas on making your home healthier and more sustainable [by clicking 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.