

Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 2, Issue 10 October 2014 – Falmouth, Maine

- As the days get shorter, the nights get cooler, and the leaves begin to change, we begin to realize the heating season is right around the corner! What are your plans to make your home more comfortable and more efficient for this upcoming heating season?
- Have you had an energy audit or assessment done through Efficiency Maine or independently? Drop us a line at reac@town.falmouth.me.us 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!
- We have a date set for the 2015 Home Energy Fair! It will be held on **Saturday, January 24th**. We’ve shifted the location to the Elementary School Cafeteria with hopes of tours of the LEED certified building. Stay tuned for more information to come in the next few months!
- Save the date for our next movie night, **Thursday October 23rd**! We’ll be showing the second film of the Ocean Frontiers documentaries, “Ocean Frontiers II: A New England Story for Sustaining the Sea.” See calendar below for more details.



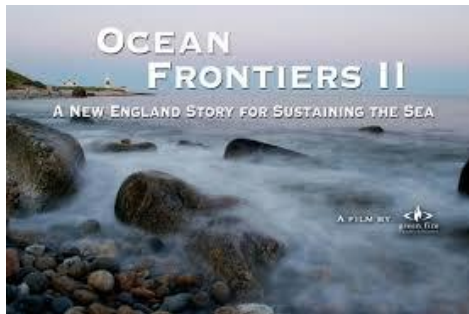
Calendar of Local Green Events- October 2014

Event	Date/Time/Location	Description
<p>Evening for the Environment</p> 	<p>October 2 5:00-6:15pm Speaking portion 6:15-7:30pm Networking & drinks Abromson Center, USM Portland 96 Falmouth St, Portland</p>	<p>Maine Conservation Voters will host the 12th annual Evening for the Environment on October 2nd at the Abromson Center at the University of Southern Maine’s Portland location. Carol Browner will keynote. She was President Clinton’s EPA Administrator and Director of the White House Office of Energy and Climate Change Policy in the Obama Administration. For ticket information, click here.</p>

<p>27th Annual Apple Celebration</p> 	<p>October 4 10:00am-2:00pm Maine Audubon Society Gisland Farm Road, Falmouth</p>	<p>Join the Maine Audubon Society for their 27th annual Apple Day Celebration! Come celebrate their historic apple orchards, learn about bees and pollinator habit and much more. They will be offering crafts, live music, scavenger hunts, apple toss, cider press, face painting and other fun activities. Contact Kim Sanders at (207) 781-2330 for more information, or follow this link</p>
<p>Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA)—Green Building Tours</p> 	<p>October 5 10:00am-4:00pm Various locations in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts</p> 	<p>This event allows you to visit a variety of homes with eco-friendly features ranging from insulation improvements, to renewable heating systems and of course, lots of solar. As in years past, many ReVision customers are on the tour and welcome you to visit their homes between 10am-4pm on October 5th. Visit ReVision's website for more information and locations across the state. Come see these homes and let them inspire yours!</p>
<p>Mainstreaming Local Foods to Institutions: Maine Farmland Trust and Farm to Institution New England</p> 	<p>October 14 8:30am-6:00pm Colby College the Diamond Building 4000 Mayflower Hill Drive, Waterville</p>	<p>Visit Waterville and get involved in this roundtable discussion, and workshops, about moving more local food into Maine campuses, hospitals, and other institutions. If you have questions about this event, follow this link for contact information or to register.</p>
<p>Summit 2014—the Dollars and Sense of Smart Growth</p> 	<p>October 21 7:30am-4:00pm Augusta Civic Center 76 Community Drive, Augusta</p>	<p>The Summit will offer you the opportunity to be a part of the transformative change in Maine that we've seen these gatherings produce. Organizers encourage you to consider the value of being actively involved in Maine's economy and protecting the reasons we chose to live here. For more information on keynote speakers and schedule of events, visit this site. You won't want to miss out on this great event!</p>

REAC Movie Night!

Ocean Frontiers II: A New England Story for Sustain the Sea



October 23
7:00pm
Falmouth Memorial Library
5 Lunt Road, Falmouth

This film brings you face to face with those now embarking on the nation's first multi-state ocean plan. Off the shores of New England, comes a modern wave of big ships, energy industries and a changing climate, now testing the limits of an already crowded sea. Come join REAC members along with the folks from the Falmouth Memorial Library for the showing of this documentary. We will have a guest speaker to answer questions, lead an after film discussion and present some Maine focused marine research. Snacks and refreshments will also be provided. We look forward to seeing you there!

Building a Framework and Platform for Climate Adaptation and Sustainability (CLAS) Planning for Maine Communities: A Climate Change Institute Conference



October 23
8:00am-5:00pm
Wells Conference Center
University of Maine, Orono

The University of Maine's Climate Change Institute, and associated partners, have unique expertise and research tools of considerable value in developing Climate Adaptation and Sustainability plans for Maine communities. Expertise and tools will be introduced, shared and expanded through a conference focused on building a web-based framework and a Google Earth-based platform for Maine community CLAS planning. For keynote speakers, schedules, registering online, and more information, visit [this site](#).



The Better Together Summit



October 24-26
All day event
Pineland Farms
15 Farmview Rd, New Gloucester



Join the New England Environmental Education Alliance and the Maine Environmental Education Association at Pineland Farms' 5,000-acre working farm, business and learning campus, and an inspiring venue for outdoor education and recreation. Come and strengthen connections and find common ground. Learn powerful new strategies for impactful collaboration. Celebrate the sum of our parts and foster innovative partnerships. Do you seek to enhance the relationships among people, nature and communities? If yes, this event is for you. For more information, [follow this link](#).

<p>Downeast Funder and Investor Tour</p>  	<p>October 29-30 More information to come</p>	<p>Save the dates for a two-day visit to Downeast Maine, designed specifically for funders and investors interested in Maine's farming and fishing economy. These bus tours offer a chance to learn from and exchange ideas with colleagues in philanthropy and investing to share an interest in the Downeast natural resource-based economy. The tour will depart from Portland with stops along the way. More information and registration details to come; contact Jo D. Saffair, EFN Coordinator at (207)688-4191 with questions, or visit their site here.</p>
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Energy News

First Wind's Bingham Wind Power Project Approved by Maine DEP—A 62 turbine Bingham wind power project has been approved by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. The project, which has elements in several towns and unorganized townships in southern Piscataquis and Somerset counties, will be the largest wind power project in Maine. To read more about this story, [follow this link](#).

Global Warming: improve economic models of climate change—"Costs of carbon emissions are being underestimated, but current estimates are still valuable for setting mitigation policy." This article goes into detail about social costs, the chances of greater harm, and better models to accommodate scientific developments. To read the full article, [click here](#).

PowerHouse brings Climate Change home to Maine Students—The Gulf of Maine Research Institute's newest education program, PowerHouse, takes climate change out of students' textbooks and onto their kitchen tables—allowing them to grapple with this complex issue through the lens of their own electricity usage. To read more about this program, [visit here](#).

Sun and Wind Alter Global Landscapes, Leaving Utilities Behind—"Of all the developed nations, few have pushed harder than Germany to find a solution to global warming. There are now hundreds of turbines in the middle of the North Sea... Germany's relentless push into renewable energy has implications far beyond its shores. By creating huge demand for wind turbines and especially for solar panels, it has helped lure big Chinese manufacturers into the market, and that combination is driving down costs faster than anyone thought possible just a few years ago." [Read the full article here](#).

Green Consumer Tips and How-To's

Rethink Décor Materials—everyone loves eating at a dining table decorated with a festive gourd centerpiece or walking up to a house with a pumpkin or dried corn stock welcoming them. If you strive for pumpkins, gourds, and corn when decorating you can compost the decorations at the end of the season rather than sending them to the basement or curb.

Window Treatments—if you're thinking about changing your window treatments to match the seasons, remember they are not just for decoration, but also for saving energy! Drapery fabric type and color play a role in helping you save energy, but so does the way they are installed. Draperies should be hung as close to the window as possible, with a seal on both sides, and overlap in the middle. If installed properly, they can reduce heat loss from a room up to 25%!

Have you been thinking about an energy audit? Don't wait any longer, now is the perfect time to get your home energy assessed. You can save between 5-30% on your energy bills by making the recommended upgrades following the assessment. Looking for an auditor? Visit the [Efficiency Maine site](#) and use their easy and convenient search engine to "Find a Residential Registered Vendor".

Did you know...?

...that Unity College was the first college *in the nation* to divest from fossil fuels? Learn more about Unity College, their pledge to be fossil-fuel-free, and all of the sustainability and environmental degrees and programs they offer by visiting their site [here](#).

...that TideSmart in Falmouth has an electric vehicle charging station for public use? The 208-volt charging station, powered by solar panels, will charge a vehicle nearly eight times as fast a standard outlet, providing convenient on-the-go service for an increasingly environmentally aware community.

...that the town of Falmouth composts yard waste? They also sell Earth Machine Backyard Compost Bins for only \$46.00 (retail value of \$100). Pick one up today at 101 Woods Road; print out and bring [this coupon](#) with you!

...that you can slash your home energy costs by at least 20%—even up to 50% or more with Efficiency Maine rebate programs and initiatives? Visit their site [here](#) and don't miss out on additional home energy savings!

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.