

Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 2, Issue 8 August 2014 – Falmouth, Maine

- Thinking about your home energy costs? What better time to start your energy improvements in your home than over the summer, to get ready for the next 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!
- Did you attend the first annual *Home Energy Savings Fair* back in January? We're trying to set a date for the next one, and would love feedback on location, time and date. Would there be a better place to host the event? Was January an appropriate time to have the event; would another month be better? Was the high school adequate, or would you like to see it somewhere else? Would you like to see more vendors? A more diverse group of vendors? Let us know!

- **Want to become a member of REAC?** Or maybe someone you know may be interested? We have an open seat that needs to be filled! To apply please:
 - Visit the town website at www.falmouthme.org, go to “Government,” “All Boards and Committees,” and then “Appointments” to fill out an application
 - You can also request an application to be mailed to you
 - Or, you can visit the town office and fill one out there

Interested in volunteering and helping out with REAC with less commitment? Get in touch with Kimberly Darling, Energy and Sustainability Coordinator at kdarling@town.falmouth.me.us; she'd love to chat!

Movie Nights—Save the Dates!




Mark your calendars for these *tentative dates*, as REAC will be showing the following films at the Falmouth Memorial Library (both Thursday evenings):

Ocean Frontiers—September 25th



Ocean Frontiers II—October 23rd

Please join us for the showing of “Ocean Frontiers: the Dawn of a New Era in Ocean Stewardship”. [These films](#) expose a new way of thinking, a new way of living, in concert with the sea, in consideration of those yet to come. We look forward to seeing you then!

Calendar of Local Green Events- August 2014

Event	Date/Time/Location	Description
<p data-bbox="71 296 472 363">Citizen's Hearing on EPA Clean Power Plan and Climate Change</p>  <p data-bbox="121 604 472 699">Natural Resources Council of Maine</p>	<p data-bbox="548 331 889 499">August 6 11:00am-12:30pm Lee Auditorium Wishcamper, USM Campus 34 Bedford St, Portland</p>	<p data-bbox="966 331 1550 804">You're invited to join EPA Region I Administrator Curt Spaulding and NRCM Executive Director Lisa Pohlmann to learn about and comment on the EPA's proposal to cut global warming carbon pollution from power plants, being called the "Clean Power Plan." This plan is poised to be the most significant action the US has ever taken to reduce carbon pollution, and the first national mandatory limits for power plants. This is great news for Maine, but big polluters and their allies are lining up in force to take down the EPA proposal. Come out and show your support!</p>
<p data-bbox="71 879 505 909">6th Annual Backyard Locavore Day</p>  <p data-bbox="77 1066 456 1182">1865 THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE</p>	<p data-bbox="548 915 898 1014">August 9 Various locations and times Freeport & Brunswick</p>	<p data-bbox="966 947 1550 1388">This rain-or-shine education event, provided by the University of Maine's Cooperative Extension's Master Gardener and Master Food Preserver Volunteers, will showcase sustainable ways to increase self-sufficiency to meet your own food needs. Demonstrations will include backyard gardening techniques, food preservation methods and more. You will see backyard poultry, honeybees at work, along with food samples highlighting preservation techniques and unique backyards. To learn more information, follow this link.</p>
<p data-bbox="71 1495 521 1524">Maine Audubon Hosts Green Drinks</p>  <p data-bbox="71 1556 467 1780">PORTLAND GREENDRINKS</p>	<p data-bbox="548 1566 930 1665">August 12 5:30-8:00pm 20 Gisland Farm Rd, Falmouth</p>	<p data-bbox="966 1530 1550 1902">Maine Audubon Society in Falmouth is excited to host the August edition of Portland Green Drinks. Join them for great conversation, beer, lawn games and more! Come share conversation with folks interested in taking action on behalf of wildlife and the environment. Learn about Maine Audubon's work in the community, including the upcoming Water Bond on the November ballot, the status of Piping Plovers, and more.</p>

<p>Heat Local Sustainable Pellet Heat for Business at ReVision Energy</p>  	<p>August 13 6:00 ReVision Energy 142 Presumpscot St, Portland</p>	<p>By switching to a Kedel pellet boiler, ReVision Energy is able to reduce their heating costs and CO2 by 90% in addition to supporting the growing wood pellet industry in Maine. Come meet ReVision Energy staff and learn how they are helping people lead more sustainable lives by installing solar and also how their company uses sustainable wood pellets for office heat. Staff will be on hand to answer your questions and provide a tour of the Kedel central heating systems as well as their solar show room. Drinks and delicious local food will be served from Verbena in South Portland.</p>
<p>Summer Course—Society & Sustainability—Biking in Maine</p>	<p>August 16-9:15am to August 22-5:15pm</p>	<p>What better way to explore alternative ways of living, feeding, and travel than by bike? And, what better place to do it than in Waldo County, Maine, an international hotspot for organic farming, alternative energy and sustainable communities. Join this group on this week long bike adventure through some of the most beautiful and sustainable landscapes where you'll get and insider's perspective on the Belfast Co-House Project, Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, Maine Farmland Trust's Veggies for All program, the Belfast Co-Op., 350 Maine, the Waldo Country Trails Coalition, and more. Learn on site and by bike from the folks who are growing some of the most sustainable communities in the world. Follow this link to learn more!</p>
<p>Natural Gas Energy Fair</p>  	<p>August 18 6:00pm Val Halla Banquet Center Val Halla Rd, Cumberland</p>	<p>Interested in learning more about switching to natural gas? Come to Val Halla Golf Course in Cumberland and learn how ReVision Heat can help you use natural gas in the most responsible way. Summit Natural Gas of Maine, Efficiency Maine, Atlantic Regional Federal Credit Union, and local contractors will be present at the Natural Gas Energy Fair to explain the conversion process, discuss finance options, and answer any questions you may have about switching to natural gas. The event is free and open to all residents.</p>

<p>Summer Networking Event at Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences</p> 	<p>August 20 4:30-6:30pm 60 Bigelow Dr. Boothbay, ME</p>	<p>The Environmental and Energy Technology Council of Maine—E2 Tech—is hosting a Summer Networking event at Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences. The event will include food, drinks, networking and a tour of the 62,000 square foot LEED-Platinum green building which overlooks the Damariscotta River. Bigelow is on the cutting edge of climate change and ocean ecosystem research and is the world’s largest algae repository. Come explore the facility and learn all about the renewable energy technologies that it holds. E2Tech will provide round-trip transportation! To register and learn more, click here.</p>
<p>Maine Seaweed Festival</p> 	<p>August 30 All day event Southern Maine Community College Campus, South Portland</p>	<p>Maine seaweeds are poised to play a major role in the growth and sustainability of our local economy and global health. The Maine Seaweed Festival will highlight the diverse uses and benefits of seaweed, while celebrating all of the dedicated harvesters, farmers, fishermen and processors that continue to invest their efforts in creating a viable and vibrant seaweed industry here in Maine. Ride the waves of our fisheries’ future, while honoring our past. Come be inspired to make seaweed a daily addition to your healthy lifestyle and support this natural resource revival!</p>

Energy News

Solar Energy Law Takes Effect— a measure sponsored by Democratic Senator Eloise Vitelle of Arrowsic to expand solar energy in Maine will go into effect on Friday. The bill directs the Public Utilities Commissions to take specific measures regarding solar energy by conducting a two-part study to develop a methodology for determining the value of solar energy generated and then apply that methodology to the available information on solar power. [For the full article, follow this link.](#)

Maine Conservation Groups Gather with South Portland Residents to celebrate and React to Tar Sands Vote—On July 21st, the South Portland City Council voted 6-1 to pass the Clear Skies Ordinance to protect the city from a tar sands crude oil terminal. South Portland is the only U.S. city on the east coast with a deep-water port and that is connected to a crude oil pipeline—a reason why it has been at the center of a battle over tar sands for over a year, in reaction to the possibility of tar sands coming to the port city from Canada. [For more information, click here.](#)

Energy Company that Pulled out of Maine Invests \$2.5 billion in UK Offshore Wind Farm—A Norwegian Company that planned to build a major wind farm off Maine’s coast put pulled the plug in October has now invested \$2.5 billion in a wind project off the shores of the United Kingdom. The announcement this month by Statoil, one of the world’s biggest oil and power companies, to invest heavily in the Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm off Norwich, England, is a glimpse into what could have been a major project for Maine, wind industry officials said. [To read more, follow this link.](#)

Green Consumer Tips and How-To's

Keep these five things in mind when you go to the grocery store:

1. Support local farmers—we all know that food that travels a lesser distance is usually fresher. When you buy local produce, you are also supporting your local farmer and the local economy
2. Buy green cleaners—chemical based cleaners can often pollute the air inside our homes. A natural approach is to use white vinegar to disinfect and baking soda for scrubbing.
3. Choose beverages in aluminum cans—unlike plastics, aluminum can be recycled endlessly.
4. Choose recycled products—paper products made from recycled material use 40% less energy and water being manufactured which in turn creates far less air, land and water pollution.
5. Use those reusable bags!—where some towns are placing a fee on plastic bags, it is important to remember your reusable. Also, don’t forget about those plastic produce bags, use them only as needed or better yet, purchase mesh bags instead.

Did you know....?

....that Maine spends \$5 billion per year importing fossil fuels and is the most petroleum-dependent state for home heating in the country, with more than 70% of households using it as their primary heating source? According to a 2010 report, rooftop solar panels alone could provide 24% of Maine’s electricity.

...that in a typical office building, toilets account for almost 70% of water usage? Replacing a conventional 5 gallon-per-flush toilet with a 1.6 gallon-per-flush model can reduce water consumption by more than half.

...that the construction of green (vegetated) roofs for commercial, industrial and municipal buildings can save a lot of energy costs? Research conducted in Canada demonstrated that a typical one-story building with a six-inch thick green roof could reduce heat loss by 26% and reduce heat gain by 95% compared to a traditional roof.

...that electric thermal storage (ETS) heating systems can store heat when prices are low and discharge it later in the day when prices are high, resulting in a lower cost home heating solution compared to oil, propane, or traditional electric baseboard heat? Read more about this technology by following [this link](#).

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.