

## Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

### “Energy News You Can Use” Volume 2, Issue 11 November 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 practically here! What are your plans to make your home more comfortable and more efficient for this heating season?
- Have you had an energy audit or assessment done through Efficiency Maine or independently? Drop us a line at [reac@falmouthme.org](mailto: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!
- We have a date set for the 2015 Home Energy Fair! It will be held on **Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>**. 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!
- Wondering what’s been happening on Route One and the progress made? [Click here](#) for weekly updates!


### REAC News Update!

The Falmouth Town Council recently received letters from residents inquiring about possible regulation of single-use plastic bags. The city of Portland had approved an ordinance which will place a 5 cent fee on both paper and plastic bags to customers, in effect April 2015. We’ve polled residents at the November 4<sup>th</sup> election and will be having a business gathering on November 11<sup>th</sup> at the Falmouth Memorial Library (see events calendar below). We’re looking for more input from residents! Please take just ONE MINUTE to follow the link below, and answer the very brief survey regarding potential regulation on single-use plastic shopping bags:


<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/X6LHXLX>

Thanks! We really appreciate your feedback, which will help us provide a recommendation on the issue to the Town Council early 2015.

### Calendar of Local Green Events- November 2014

Event	Date/Time/Location	Description
Heat Local—Kedel Pellet Boiler with 3 Ton Storage in South Portland 	November 5 6:00-7:30pm 194 Walnut St, South Portland	Come out and join ReVision in South Portland and tour the Corbin residence where you will learn about the family’s journey off fossil fuels. By switching to a renewable heat source, this family is saving over \$1,200 on their annual heating and domestic hot water expenses, while reducing their carbon footprint by nearly 90%! Light dinner and fare from Verbena will be provided; and as always, staff from ReVision will be there to answer all of your questions.

<p>Island Energy Conference</p> 	<p>November 7 9:00am-5:45pm Clarion Hotel 1230 Congress St, Portland</p> <p>A field trip to Peak's Island is scheduled for November 8<sup>th</sup>—for more information <a href="#">click here</a>.</p>	<p>Come join the crowd for the fifth annual Island Energy Conference, which brings together island leaders and energy experts to discuss common energy challenges, while learning more about resources that exists to address these changes. Topics covered will include innovation on diesel-powered islands, island community-developer relations in offshore wind projects, funding opportunities, and many other related issues related to efficiency and renewable energy projects on islands and islanded grids.</p>
<p>7<sup>th</sup> Annual Wild &amp; Scenic Film Festival</p> 	<p>November 8 4:00-8:15pm Abromson Center University of Southern Maine 88 Bedford St, Portland</p>	<p>Friends of Casco Bay's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Wild &amp; Scenic Film Festival will return on Saturday. The event will include amusing "shorts," entertaining films, and inspiring documentaries. This year's films will make this a great event for children 12 and older as well as adults. So come out with your family and friends!</p> 
<p>Falmouth Business Meeting— Discussion of regulation of single-use plastic shopping bags</p>	<p>November 11 7:00-9:00pm Falmouth Memorial Library 2 Lunt Rd, Falmouth</p> 	<p>The Falmouth Town Council has asked REAC to develop options and recommendations concerning the use of single-use shopping bags, after receiving letters from residents. We will be hosting this event to bring Falmouth businesses together to discuss options and provide information on the topic. The city of Portland has adopted an ordinance, in effect April 2015, that will place a 5 cent fee to consumers on each shopping bag used. Please join us on November 11 at the library for a discussion on a possible policy regulating the use of shopping bags in Falmouth.</p>

<p>Global Climate Change for the Non-Expert</p>	<p>November 19 Room A101 Scarborough High School 11 Municipal Drive, Scarborough</p>	<p>With the term “climate change” being used more frequently, comes feelings of being overwhelmed, confused, uniformed and ineffectual. This class seeks to remedy those feelings by giving a comprehensive look at climate change for people who are not necessarily scientists or policymakers. Lora Winslow, an environmental advocate and educator will be teaching the course at a fee of \$20. <a href="#">Read more here.</a></p>
<p>Green Streets Walk &amp; Ride Day</p>  <p>The last Friday of every month Leave your car at home!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wear Green (shirt, pants, socks, whatever!)</li> <li>- Commute Green (walk, bike, bus, or carpool)</li> <li>- Get Free Stuff! (discounts and raffle items)</li> </ul> <p>For more info, to sign up, and to get some free stuff: <a href="http://www.PortlandGreenStreets.org">www.PortlandGreenStreets.org</a></p>	<p>November 28 6:00am-8:00pm All over Portland</p>	<p>Portland Green Streets Day is a monthly, city-wide day of getting around Green, taking place the last Friday of each month. Your once-a-month commitment can happen on Green Streets Day, or a day that is more convenient to you. Green Streets Day serves both as a monthly reminder and a supportive social network to help you make your commitment. Green Streets is for everyone! To learn about incentives offered by local businesses for your participation, <a href="#">click here!</a></p>

## Energy News

**The Growing Global Bioeconomy**—today’s global Bioeconomy, recently valued at \$1.2 trillion, is expanding daily with new technologies. As companies are faced with consumer demand for making responsible products and an increasing drive for less toxic chemicals, the market for bioplastics will continue to grow. Visit the Sustainable Bioplastics Council of Maine’s [website](#) to learn how they aim to leverage regional assets and attract private investments to create new jobs that will advance biobased products, which are safer and more sustainable for people and the planet.

**UMaine Expands Ocean Energy Testing Capabilities**—construction is underway on an addition to UMaine’s Advanced Structures and Composites Center, called the W2. This unique wave-wind basin will allow UMaine researchers to test offshore structures under differing wave and wind environments. Read the full story [here](#).

**Maine’s First Community Solar Farm**—after two years in development, ReVision Energy has started construction of Maine’s first community solar farm at Sunnycroft Farm in Paris, Maine. Community solar allows the construction of a large solar electric array that is co-owned by a group of customers who live elsewhere; the array can be located anywhere that has good solar exposure. Read more by following [this link](#).

## Green Consumer Tips and How-To's

Old man winter has crept up on us, maybe sooner than we had planned for! When preparing for winter, make sure to keep these safety messages in mind:

- ✓ [Wood Burning and Lung Health: Burn it Smart and Healthy](#)
- ✓ [The Maine DOT recommends these items for your car as you prepare for winter](#)
- ✓ [Preventing or Thawing Frozen Water Pipes](#)
- ✓ [Alternative Heat Source Safety](#)

## Did you know....?

...if you get your garden ready for winter, it will make a big difference next spring? [Follow this link](#) and use the checklist provided so you'll be ready to enjoy your garden again when the first spring bulbs come up.

...that you can calculate your home's energy efficiency on Efficiency Maine's [website?](#) While you're on the site, make sure to look at the different incentives and programs the Efficiency Maine trust offers to Mainers. Don't miss out on saving additional money in rebates when you're working on home energy improvements!

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