

Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)


“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 2, Issue 9 September 2014 – Falmouth, Maine

- As the days get shorter, the nights get cooler, and the leaves begin to change color, 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!
- Did you attend the first annual *Home Energy Savings Fair* back in January? Do you have any feedback on venue, vendors, location or other insights? 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,” and follow the drop box for “Board & Committee 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 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!

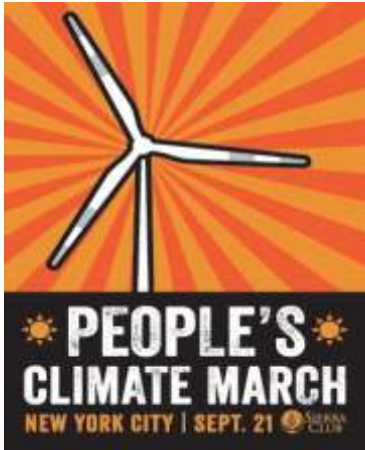
Calendar of Local Green Events- September 2014

| Event | Date/Time/Location | Description |
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| The Madison Energy Expo— Efficiency Maine  | September 6 9:00am-3:00pm Madison Memorial High School 205 Main St, Madison | This expo will showcase businesses in the energy industry and will be a cross section of those in geothermal energy, natural gas, energy audits, small wind power projects, solar options, programs to help finance energy upgrades, new lighting options, Net Energy Billing, weatherizing your house, biomass options, heat exchangers, demand hot water systems, and many other money-saving options. Informational sessions conducted by professionals will also be held. Admission is free and open to the public! |

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| <p>Alternative Energy Exposition</p>  | <p>September 12 2:00pm-7:00pm Interphase Energy 145 Presumpscot St, Portland</p> | <p>Interphase Energy—A Maine-based supplier of central pellet heating equipment throughout North America—is hosting this educational event at their Portland location. Free to the public, this expo will showcase a variety of alternative energy organizations, providing information and demonstrations, as well as speakers, workshops, panels, food trucks and much more! Come out on the 12th and experience a range of renewable heating options, as well as rides in electric cars and tours of their solar photovoltaic installation.</p> |
| <p>Heat of the Moment: Plans from State Officials, Energy Companies & Maine’s next Governor</p>  | <p>September 12 7:15am-11:00am Hannaford Hall, USM 88 Bedford St, Portland</p> | <p>The Environmental and Energy Technology Council (E2Tech) is pleased to host this special event to help businesses and homeowners make cost-effective and thoughtful decisions ahead of the heating season. The event will consist of the following three parts: <i>What can the Governor do?</i> Governor Paul LePage, Mike Michaud and candidate Eliot Cutler have all been invited to speak on their approaches to this critical issue along with their energy and environmental positions. <i>What help is available and are these programs working?</i> The Executive director of Efficiency Maine and the Director of the Governor’s Energy Office will speak on these topics. <i>What are my options?</i> Maine heating and energy efficiency companies will have information and displays of their products and services. For more information, follow this link.</p> |
| <p>Portland Green Fest</p>  | <p>September 13 10:00am-4:00pm Monument Square, Portland</p> | <p>Come on out for the first annual Portland Green Fest! You’ll experience Southern Maine’s premiere eco-event featuring music, art, eco-fashion, local food, kids’ activities, exhibits, workshops, films and demonstrations. You’ll have fun, be entertained, and learn about how to “green-up” your home, life, business and community! This event is one you won’t want to miss! To visit the Portland Green Fest’s website, click here!</p> |

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| <p>Hydrogen Energy Center’s Monthly Directors’ Meeting-</p>   | <p>September 16 6:00pm-8:00pm GPCOG/Clean Communities Office 970 Baxter Boulevard, Portland</p> | <p>The Hydrogen Energy Center will host their Monthly Directors’ Meeting at the Greater Portland Council of Government’s office in the evening on September 16th. Their four main focus areas include: hydrogen and fuel cell applications for transportation, hydrogen as a storage medium for intermittent energy sources, hydrogen fuel cells for combined heat and power, as well as hydrogen applications in the pulp and paper industry. Come learn more about the uses and possibilities of hydrogen during this meeting.</p> |
| <p>Heat Local—Kedel in South Portland</p>  | <p>September 17 Must RSVP for more information 207-221-5677 x 2 Or fill out ReVision’s Contact form</p> | <p>ReVision Heat will be traveling to the Brydon family home to learn about their journey off fossil fuels for home heating. By switching to a Kedel pellet boiler, this family has saved \$1,500 on their annual home heating and domestic water expense, while reducing their CO2 by 90%. By transitioning to a local, renewable and sustainable heating fuel, this family is supporting Maine’s economy while lowering their carbon footprint. Come learn more, while ReVision will be on site answering questions and providing a tour of the system.</p> |
| <p>National Drive Electric Week Event—South Portland</p>  | <p>September 21 Community Center 21 Nelson Rd, South Portland 12:00pm-5:00pm</p> | <p>The city of South Portland will be the host for this year’s National Drive Electric Week plug-in vehicle expo. Their free-to-the-public on-site electric vehicle charging stations include a Clipper Creek dual-connector Level II and a Nissan DC fast charger. The event will showcase many electric vehicles currently on the market with dealerships and some owners giving test drives. The sponsors also plan to raffle a charging station for test drivers with a variety of other gifts for attendees and refreshments will be provided. This event is free to the public, but the organizers recommend registering. To do so, follow this link and click the button “register”.</p> |

People's Climate March—Maine
Chapter Sierra Club



September 21
New York City
Buses depart Portland
4:30am

The Sierra Club Maine is organizing special charter buses to bring Mainers to the historic People's Climate March in New York City on Sunday, September 21st. Tickets to ride buses are only \$30 round trip. They brought several charter buses to the big climate rally in DC last year, and they hope to be able to bring more Mainers to this big event, which will be the largest climate rally in history! For more information on how to get involved, visit their site by [following this link](#).

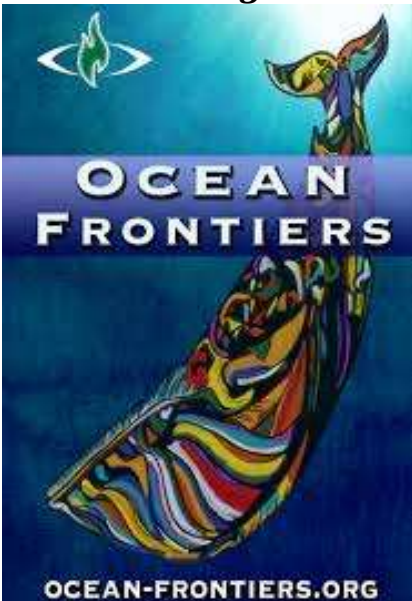
Common Ground Country Fair—
Maine Organic Farmers and
Gardeners Association



September 19-21
294 Crosby Brook Rd, Unity
Gates open daily at 9:00am
Vendors open until 6:00pm
Friday and Saturday, and until
5:00pm Sunday

If you've been to the Fair, you know—and if you haven't, anyone who has will tell you—it's an event like no other, that brings together so many people from many walks of life, all in the spirit of celebrating the rural and agricultural traditions of Maine. Some areas include composting and recycling, energy and shelter, environmental concerns, and low impact forestry among many others. Come enjoy live demonstrations, interact with livestock, and admire folk art and crafts! For more detailed Fair information, [visit this site](#).

REAC Movie Night!



September 25
Falmouth Memorial Library
5 Lunt Rd, Falmouth
7:00pm

Save the Date! October 23rd we will be showing the second film: Ocean Frontiers II: A New England Story for Sustaining the Sea

REAC, along with the Falmouth Memorial Library invites you to the screenings of the award-winning Ocean Frontiers documentary films. Each screening will be followed by discussions lead by committee members and guest speakers. *Ocean Frontiers: The Dawn of a New Era in Ocean Stewardship* takes us around the world and explains how biologist and ecologists, farmers, small and commercial fisheries and others are embarking on a new course of cooperation, to sustain the sea and our ocean economies. We look forward to seeing you there!



Energy News

Teaming Heat Pumps with Rooftop Solar Power—Trends appear to be going in the right direction; more efficiency, for a smaller buck. Panel prices have been dropping for years, while panel output and efficiency has been rising. Mini-split heat pumps are becoming more efficient, at colder temperatures. [Follow this link](#) and read how solar and heat pumps really can be a match made in renewable heaven!

ReEnergy Announces Plans to Restart Operations at Biomass-to-Energy Facility in Ashland, Maine—the 39-megawatt ReEnergy Ashland facility generates renewable energy from responsibly harvested green forest residue biomass and unadulterated wood. It is capable of producing approximately 284,000 MWh of electricity each year—enough to supply 37,000 homes. The facility has achieved certification to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard. To read more on this story, along with others, [click here](#).

Green Consumer Tips and How-To's



With the end of summer approaching, and autumn right around the corner, it's time to start thinking of ways to prepare your home for the colder months to come. Here are a few simple and cheap ways to do so:

- ✓ Clean your gutters—proactive gutter maintenance is an absolute must before leaves start to drop.
- ✓ Tree trimming—the end of summer is a great time to make sure tree branches aren't hanging over your home.
- ✓ Window washing—before foliage season, make sure your windows are nice and clean to amplify natural light.

Did you know....?

...that by mid-September of this year, there will be an estimated *quarter million* electric vehicles on the road in the United States? Check out the events calendar above for details on the National Drive Electric Week, with the local event held in South Portland that's coming right up!

...the Regional Green House Gas Initiative (RGGI) has generated \$257 million in energy savings for Maine? The EPA is now recommending more strict standards for the rest of the country by forcing power plants to cut their carbon emissions significantly. [Read more here](#).

...the state of Maine is the only New England state in which industry is the largest energy consuming sector? The industrial sector accounted for 34% of energy consumed in 2011.

...that in 2012, over half of Maine's net electricity generation came from renewable energy resources, with about 29% from hydroelectricity, 25% from wood and 7% from wind? [Click here](#) for more Maine energy statistics.

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.