



Recycling and Energy
Advisory Committee
2020 Council Update
March 8, 2021

Committee Members:

Dave Low, Chair

Caleb Hemphill

Rich Bicknell

Audrey Hotckiss

Lynn Breckinridge

Dick Klain

Donna Cheney

Council Liasion: Pete LaFond

Statff Liason: Ashley Krulik

REAC Mission

Advise residents, businesses, and municipal operations on sustainability initiatives that help cultivate a resilient community.*

* Updated mission statement subject to Appointments Committee review and approval.

2020: A Year of Change

- Pete LaFond left REAC to join the Town Council + became REAC Council Liaison
 - Dave Low elected as new Chair
 - Kimberly Darling left role as Sustainability Coordinator
 - Replaced by Ashley Krulik
-

2020 Accomplishments

Landfill solar array

- Will offset 70% of Municipal electrical usage
- 875 KW
- “Live” late summer
- Projected \$2 million savings over 20 years



3D rendering of solar array from Tangent

2020 Accomplishments

Sustainable Business Recognition Program

- Recognize local businesses that show an outstanding commitment to sustainability
- Lead by example

Sustainable Business Recognition Program Guidelines

The mission of the Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC) is to save energy costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Falmouth. To recognize Falmouth businesses who are making extraordinary contributions to these goals, REAC has instituted an award to recognize businesses who have demonstrated outstanding commitment.

HOW CAN MY BUSINESS GET RECOGNIZED?
Let us know what sustainable actions your business has committed to following in its operations! Some examples of what REAC looks for to determine outstanding commitment include:

Energy Conservation

- Track, understand, and review utility bills to identify any inconsistent high usage.
- Utilize renewable energy to support operations, such as electric, heating and TV charging.
- Reduce energy use by installing LED lightbulbs or Air Source Heat Pumps.

Waste Management

- Offer clearly labeled recycling bins for customers and staff.
- Contract with waste hauler(s) to collect and separate trash, recycling, and food waste.

Transportation

- Provide bike racks, bike storage for employees, and/or have TV chargers available.
- Encourage/incentivize employees to carpool.
- Provide Greater Portland Metro bus passes to employees.
- Allow employees to telecommute or work a condensed schedule.

Indoor Air Quality

- Work with your HVAC specialist to determine the correct level of outdoor air needed to provide your space with a recommended minimum air quality.
- Enact a green cleaning policy.
- Utilize integrated pest management practices.

Water Conservation

- Reduce water use by using low flow pre-rinse spray valves or aerators in kitchen and bathroom sinks.

- Track, understand, and review utility bills and water meter for any indications of leaks or other problems.

Kitchen and Food

- Offer clearly labeled food waste bins to compost food scraps, food waste, and/or compostable products in the front and back of house, as applicable.
- Recycle frying oil to be reused in biodiesel manufacturing. (Applies to food providers only)
- Commit to not using plastic straws, utensils, stirrers, picks, single-serve coffee pods, or unnecessary packaging. Instead, providing reusable, compostable, or recyclable straws, utensils, stirrer, picks, or coffee pods.

Community Stewardship

- Lead by example: offer insight and assistance to other local businesses that are interested in adopting more sustainable practices.

HOW WILL THIS BENEFIT MY BUSINESS?

By investing in these sustainable practices your business will save money by reducing your energy costs. Plus, if your business is selected by the REAC to be recognized for its outstanding commitment, it will receive Town Council recognition, a certificate, and will be highlighted in the Falmouth Focus and REAC newsletter, which will increase awareness of your commitment to sustainability to the community.

GET MORE INFORMATION

If you think that your business qualifies for recognition, please contact the Falmouth Sustainability Office at 207-699-5337 or slc@falmothme.org

See accompanying Appendix for more actions your business can take!

2020 Accomplishments

Plastic Straw Ban

- Completed extensive research + developed a recommended strategy
 - Put on hold due to COVID
-

2020 Accomplishments

Push for EV Charging Infrastructure

- Implementation in process at library
- Exploring options along RT 1
- Leveraging grant opportunities



2020 Accomplishments

Bicycle Repair Station Effort Underway

- Support alternative modes of transportation
- Locations TBD



Image courtesy of Northeastern University

2020 Accomplishments

A large pile of garbage, including plastic bottles, bags, and other debris, is shown in the background. A yellow bulldozer is visible on top of the pile, suggesting a landfill or waste management site. The sky is overcast and grey.

Recycling Reform Bill

- Passed Resolution to support LD 2104
 - Puts packaging waste responsibility back on the producers
 - Stalled during COVID - reintroduced in 2021 session
-

2020 Accomplishments

East Side Food Waste Kiosk

- Installed 3rd and final food waste kiosk
- Locations:
 - Community Park
 - Transfer Station
 - Village Pack (next to Casco Bay Arena)



Looking Ahead - REAC Work Plan Strategy

- Prioritize efforts where progress can be made, and adoption will be approachable for community members, during the pandemic
 - Prioritize efforts that will make the biggest sustainable impact on the community
 - Balance efforts with REAC mission
 - Prioritize Falmouth Town Council work plan items
-

2021 Goals

Regulatory:

- Municipal Green Building Ordinance
 - Require that all Town owned and/or funded construction projects over a certain threshold be required to meet a specific green building goal.
 - Green Building Ordinance
 - Propose to Council that all commercial developments be required to meet certain green building standards.
 - Sustainable Procurement Policy
 - Opportunity to look at purchasing through a “green lens” to reduce waste, lower carbon footprint, and save money
-

2021 Goals

Waste Reduction:

- Business Recycling Program:
 - Discuss business recycling with the local waste haulers to ascertain the viability of aiding businesses in their recycling efforts.
 - Thin film plastic recycling at the transfer station:
 - Research how the transfer station might be able to start accepting thin film plastics which can currently only be recycled at large retailers in town.
-

2021 Goals

Education:

- Resident Sustainability Education
 - REAC Newsletter
 - Falmouth Focus articles
 - Commercial Sustainability Education
 - Business recycling
 - Ongoing Sustainable Business Recognition Program
-



The Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee is looking forward to continuing to support sustainability in Falmouth through work on all these, and future, efforts.

Thank you!