









Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)


“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 6, Issue 1, January 2018 – Falmouth, Maine

- Winter is here, and with all the snow already, it won't be leaving anytime soon. How do you keep your home comfortable and warm in the winter while keeping your heating expenses down?
- Any ideas how Falmouth can be more sustainable? Use less energy? Generate less waste? We'd love to hear your ideas! Contact your Energy and Sustainability Coordinator, Kimberly Darling at kdarling@falmouthme.org with your thoughts and suggestions.

Calendar of Local Green Events- January 2018

Event	Date/Time/Location	Description
<p>2018 Maine Agricultural Trades Show</p> 	<p>January 9-11 Tuesday—9:00am-5:00pm Wednesday—9:00am-7:00pm Thursday—9:00am-3:00pm Augusta Civic Center 76 Community Dr., Augusta</p>	<p>The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry is the State's lead agency dealing with all aspects of the food system from the field to the table. The Department maintains a mission of fostering opportunities for the agricultural community and promoting stewardship of Maine's natural resources. The 77th Annual Agricultural Trades Show will be held at the Augusta Civic Center on January 9-11. Admission is free!</p>
<p>GrowSmart Maine Forum: Growing Farm Friendly Communities</p> 	<p>January 18 9:00-11:00am Windham Town Hall 8 School St., Windham</p> 	<p>Hear community and municipal leaders share policy approaches and practical ideas for ways communities and farmers can benefit from working together. Stephanie Gilbert, Farm Viability & Farmland Protection Specialist with the Maine Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation, & Forestry will moderate this panel discussion, followed by ample time for audience Q&A and networking. For more information, and to register for this event, click here.</p>
<p>Clean Energy Transition Lunch and Learn</p> 	<p>January 19 12:00-1:00pm ReVision Energy 142 Presumpscot St., Portland</p>	<p>Over the past 10 years, solar technology has dropped in price by 75% making today a great time to invest. Join ReVision and their team at this lunch and learn where they will have test drives of their all-electric Chevy Bolt. ReVision will give you all the tools you need to know for a clean energy transition at your home. Email Brittany at bangelo@revisionenergy.com or call her at 221-6342 for more information.</p>

<p>All the Wild Wonders, Women in Harmony</p> 	<p>January 20-21 Saturday—7:30pm Sunday—3:00pm Maine Girls Academy 631 Stevens Ave., Portland</p>  <p>Natural Resources Council of Maine</p>	<p>The Natural Resources Council of Maine is partnering with the Women in Harmony choral group for two January concerts entitled, “All the Wild Wonders.” The cause of this celebration is to highlight nature in all its aspects—flora, fauna, earth, wind, water and sky—with an eye toward stewardship of the earth’s precious resources. For ticket information, click here.</p>
<p>Maine Clean Energy Day</p> 	<p>January 25 11:00am-2:00pm Maple Hill Farm Inn 11 In Rd., Hallowell</p>	<p>The Northeast Clean Energy Council (NECEC) is a regional non-profit clean energy business, policy, and innovation organization whose mission is to accelerate the region’s clean energy economy to global leadership, by building an active community of stakeholders and a world-class cluster of companies. Maine Clean Energy Day will showcase the growing vitality of the clean energy industry and the importance of consistent policy support as a means of catalyzing the state’s, and our region’s, economy. For more information on this event, follow this link.</p>
<p>5th Annual Home Energy Fair Towns of Falmouth and Cumberland co-hosting!</p> 	<p>January 27 10:00am-3:00pm Falmouth Elementary School 58 Woodville Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>Join Falmouth REAC alongside the Cumberland Climate Action Team, as the Towns of Falmouth and Cumberland co-host the 5th Annual Home Energy Fair. Vendors include those in the field of home energy, energy efficiency, alternatives fuels, and so much more. Admission is free, children’s activities are provided as well as a chance to win door prizes. This year, we’re hoping to provide free test drives of all electric vehicles, provided by Lee Nissan. For more information, contact Kimberly Darling at kdarling@falmouthme.org. We look forward to seeing you there!</p>

<p>“The Smog of the Sea” Marine Plastics Film and Panel Discussion</p>  <p>Natural Resources Council of Maine</p>	<p>January 30 6:00pm Lincoln Theatre 2 Theater St., Damariscotta</p>	<p><i>The Smog of the Sea</i> chronicles a one-week journey through the remote waters of the Sargasso Sea. Marine scientist Marcus Eriksen invited onboard an unusual crew to help him study the sea: renowned surfers Keith & Dan Malloy, musician Jack Johnson, spearfisher woman Kimi Werner, and bodysurfer Mark Cunningham become citizen scientists on a mission to assess the fate of plastics in the world’s oceans. This event is free and open to the public, but to reserve your seats, and for more information, follow this link.</p>
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Energy News

Maine Coastal Towns’ Leaders Vote to Oppose Offshore Wind Project—the St. George Board voted to oppose an offshore wind project taking shape about 12 miles away, standing with local fishermen who say the project and its transmission cable would harm their livelihoods. For the full article, [click here.](#)

Municipalities Making Headway with LED Street Light Replacement—a group of local governments in Aroostook County is moving ahead with a project to cooperatively replace their streetlights with high efficiency LED lights. The move should save municipalities about half or more of what they’re currently paying for streetlights, according to Presque Isle City Manager Martin Puckett. For the full article, [follow this link.](#)

Funding to Expand Gas Collection at Hatch Hill Landfill Approved—Augusta is moving forward with spending \$350,000 to capture methane gas in the currently active portion of the Hatch Hill Landfill. The City already captures methane gas; however, the gas has historically been burned off by a flare. But city officials are now working with consultants to design, and potentially within a year, begin operating a system to use the gas produced at the landfill to make electricity that would be fed into the electrical grid and help offset the City’s electricity costs. [Click here](#) to read more.

Maine PUC Delays Controversial Solar Bill Until April—the Maine Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) announced in December that it will delay, until April 30, the implementation of its first-in-the-nation experiment to charge solar power producers for the energy they produce. To read more, [follow this link.](#)

In Other News...

Goodwill NNE Ditching Plastic Bags—Goodwill Northern New England stores are ditching plastic bags as of January 1, 2018. To help customers adapt to the change, the stores will have a limited number of reusable bags available in Goodwill’s 29 stores across Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

York Land Trust Preserving 220 Forest Acres in Southern Maine—York Land Trust Executive Director says the Trust was able to buy the land thanks in part to a big contribution from the people of York. The 220-acre property has been managed as a sustainable working forest, which is going to continue. For the full story, [click here.](#)

Green Consumer Tips & How-To's &

- To ensure heavy snowfall doesn't snap branches that could provide wonderful cooling shade in the summer months, shake snow-laden tree branches with a mop or broom to relieve some of the weight.
- Federal regulations mandate that new showerhead flow rates can't exceed more than 2.5 gallons per minute (gpm) at a water pressure of 80 pounds per square inch (psi). New faucet flow rates can't exceed 2.5 gpm at 80 psi or 2.2 gpm at 60 psi. You can purchase some quality, low-flow fixtures for around \$10 to \$20 a piece and achieve water savings of 25%–60%.
- [You're kind of done with that Christmas tree. Now, what to do with it?](#) What a beautiful thing just days ago now may feel like a waste dilemma. Check out the article above for some insight, compost your tree at home, or drop it by the Transfer Station to be composted—hours are: Tuesday/Thursday, 12:00-4:00pm, Friday, 7:00am-5:00pm, and Saturday from 9:00am-5:00pm.

Did You Know...

... Maine farmers are the stewards of 1.25 million acres of land? The land provides the public benefits of open space and recreation—they are the cornerstone of food security for Maine people.

...the farming industry has a \$1.2 billion influence on Maine's economy?

...a great way to test the seal of your refrigerator is using a dollar bill? Close the dollar bill in the door—if the bill drops when you close the door, you may want to consider fixing the seal or maybe it's time for a new refrigerator all together. A refrigerator holds a set temperature that is very different from the air outside it. It only makes sense that a better sealed, better insulated fridge with updated mechanical systems would save money.

...one drip from a leaky faucet per second, wastes 1,661 gallons of water each year?

...the average home designates 5% of its energy budget to lighting? Switching to energy-efficient lighting is one of the fastest ways to cut your energy bills.

...ENERGY STAR-qualified LEDs use only 20-25% of the energy and last up to 25 times longer than the traditional incandescent bulbs they replace? LEDs also use 25-30% of the energy and last 8-25 times longer than halogen incandescents?

...new Lighting Standards Began in 2012? —Visit [this page](#) at Energy.gov for more information.

...it is extremely important that your tires on your vehicle are always inflated to the appropriate tire pressure? Not only can tires being overinflated or underinflated effect your vehicle's gas mileage and be unsafe, it also effects how the tires ware. Be sure to always pay attention and act if your dash light shows your tires' pressure needs adjusting. Your pocket book will thank you!

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.