





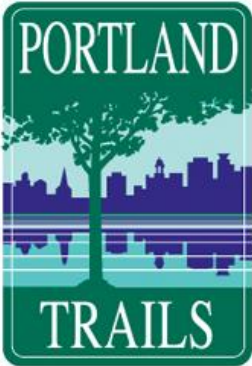
Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 5, Issue 5, May, 2017 – Falmouth, Maine

- It’s spring! What are your home energy plans as the days are getting warmer?
- 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 your Energy and Sustainability Coordinator a shout at kdarling@falmouthme.org with your suggestions!
- Have a question about home energy, or waste diversion? We’re happy to help find you answers.

Calendar of Local Green Events–May, 2017

Event	Date/Time/Location	Description
<p>E2Tech presents Energy Storage & Microgrids: Innovation in the Electricity Sector</p> 	<p>May 8 5:00-7:30pm Cloudport 63 Federal St., Portland</p>	<p>On-site batteries and power control systems, cost trends, and the rise of a robust electric vehicle and infrastructure market will impact how Northeast developers, utilities and customers develop and operate energy storage systems and microgrids for variable generation. E2Tech, the Hydrogen Energy Center (HEC), and the Northeast Electrochemical Energy Storage Cluster (NEESC) are teaming up to examine the innovation, design, operational planning, and marketing implications for these technologies and how the Northeast should be accelerating their adoption and deployment to improve energy security and reliability while protecting the environment. Follow this link to learn more about the speakers and to register.</p>
<p>“The Breakthrough in Renewable Energy” Screening</p> 	<p>May 10 7:00-8:30pm Community Television Network 516 Congress St., Portland</p> 	<p>ReVision Energy and The Sierra Club are showing “The Breakthrough in Renewable Energy: The Silent Revolution That’s Moving Across the World,” followed by a brief discussion. ReVision will be speaking on solar in Maine and will be joined by Glen Brand, Portland Climate Action Team member and Director of Sierra Club Maine, to talk about solar at the Legislature. This event is free and open to the public but space is limited. Please RSVP by emailing bangelo@revisionenergy.com.</p>

<p>Maine's Ride of Silence</p> 	<p>May 17 7:00pm Brunswick</p> <p>Bike to Work Day! May 19th</p>	<p>A free and silent bike ride, no faster than 10-12mph, honoring cyclists lost or injured due to motorists will take place on May 17th in Brunswick. The ride will begin at the Gazebo on Park Row, Brunswick and will travel 10 miles in Brunswick and Topsham. Riders must have a helmet and lights and black arm-bands are recommended.</p> <p>For more information: (207)883-0939 mainegreenways@comcast.net</p>
<p>Pollinator Parade & Festival</p> 	<p>May 20 10:00am-1:00pm Maine Audubon Gilsland Farm 20 Gilsland Farm Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>The morning will start with a family festival, followed by the third Annual Pollinator Parade, and will end with a bring-your-own picnic on the grounds. This events also marks the release of <i>A Monarch Butterfly Story</i>, written by Melissa Kim and illustrated by Jada Fitch, both who will be available to sign copies of the book that day. For more information on this event, click here.</p>
<p>Falmouth Wellness Festival</p> 	<p>May 21 10:00am-2:00pm Falmouth Elementary School 58 Woodville Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>Tents teaming with wellness inspired products, activities and services will transform the Falmouth Elementary School parking lot into a microcosm of the town itself - a place filled with people who invest in the well-being of themselves, their children and their community. REAC will be there with our education and outreach materials. Event proceeds will fund FES natural play space.</p> <p>For more information contact Tara Fox at foxfamilymaine@gmail.com</p>
<p>Public Volunteer Trail Day</p> 	<p>May 21 9:00am-1:00ppm Location details: meet at the end of Hutchins Dr., on the Stroudwater Trail</p>	<p>Give back to Portland Trails with a public volunteer day on the trails. This month they will be moving materials and beginning to carve out some new trail near the Stroudwater Trail. Organizers will bring the shovels, gloves and plenty of dirt. You bring the sweat and good spirits! Closed-toed shoes and water bottles are also recommended. To volunteer for this event, or to see dates of others, follow this link.</p>

"Forgotten Farms" Film Screening



May 22
6:30-9:00pm
Space Gallery
538 Congress St., Portland

New England has lost over 100,000 dairy farms in the past 50 years; only about 2,000 farms remain. Through conversations with farmers and policy experts *Forgotten Farms* reconsiders the role of these vital but forgotten farmers, who will be essential players in an expanded agricultural economy. Maine Farmland Trust President and farm advocate Amanda Beal, along with the film makers and Maine dairy farmers, will discuss how the themes of the film are present in Maine's dairy industry and where we can go from here.

More about the film:

<http://forgottenfarms.org/about-the-film/>

Energy News

Bill Could Scuttle UMaine Offshore Wind Project near Monhegan—a bill aimed at moving a wind energy test site father from Monhegan Island would have the practical effect of ending Maine's bid to build the country's first commercial-size, floating wind turbines. [Follow this link](#) for the full story.

Despite Fears over Clifton Wind Farm, no one has Complained Since It Went up—it has been five months since a wind farm opened on Pisgah Mountain following seven years of planning, several lawsuits, at least seven town wide votes and fear of noise and bird fatalities. But since the turbines went online in December, no one has complained. To read more, [click here](#).

Ten States, Including Maine, Challenge Trump over Energy Rules—ten states and a handful of national environmental groups have sued the Trump Administration, claiming it is violating federal law by delaying energy-efficiency standards intended to save Americans almost \$24 billion. [Click here](#) for the full article.

Loggers Disagree with LePage over Biomass Contract Changes—an association that represents Maine loggers expressed opposition last month to proposed changes in a 2016 biomass industry bailout bill that allocated \$13.4 million in state subsidies to companies that produce energy with products supplied by loggers. [Follow this link](#) to read more.

Report: Maine Propping up Unsustainable Biomass Power Industry—the report, by the Massachusetts-based Partnership for Policy Integrity, argues that while Maine's biomass industry has received over \$250 million in subsidies and grants since 2008, the payments have done little to stop the bleeding of jobs and tax revenue from an industry that generates electricity too dirty to be eligible for clean energy subsidies in some neighboring states, and too expensive to compete with alternatives in the free market. To read the full article, [click here](#).

LePage Says He Wants to Put a Cap on Energy Costs for Industrial Users—although Maine has the lowest industrial energy costs in New England, the governor reiterated that he thinks energy costs are keeping new businesses of the state. [Follow this link](#) for the full article.

Portland Councilors Want City to Use 100% Clean Energy by 2040—the City's Sustainability Committee plans to amend and revamp the 2008 Municipal Climate Action Plan for the City to include a strategy to achieve the 2040 goal. The goal would place Portland among a growing number of U.S. communities that are leading efforts to reduce fossil fuel use that contribute to climate change and other environmental issues.

In Other News...

Portland has a New Strategy for Feeding Low-Income Residents—to put a dent in the region’s burgeoning food insecurity problem, the organization that manages Portland’s community gardens started giving preference to low-income residents. A new initiative by Cultivating Community and the City of Portland moves low-income residents to the top of the waiting list for roughly 40 plots—the previous policy was to move low-income residents five spaces. For the full article, follow [this link](#).

Lincoln Mill CEO Would Lead Early Cleanup Efforts under EPA’s Proposed Deal—the proposal calls for removing a range of hazardous chemicals from the property, including waste oil, papermaking chemicals, asbestos and radioactive materials. If the plan gets EPA’s formal endorsement, it will then go to a bankruptcy judge. Once approved by the judge, it calls for the company to complete the initial cleanup in 180 days. [Follow this link](#) for the full article.

Belfast Council Scraps Plastic Bag Fee Idea, Eyes Stronger Ban—deeming their first plan too weak, the Belfast City Council has mothballed a proposed fee on single-use plastic bags and instead wants to consider an outright ban.

Rockland Hears Call for Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags—at its agenda setting meeting on April 3, the Rockland City Council heard from the public on curbing the use of plastic both in stores and the working waterfront. For the full article, [click here](#).

Saco Bans Single-Use Plastic Bags—under the new ordinance, retail establishments that provide bags to customers would have to use non-petroleum bags that meet certain standards of biodegradability.

Green Consumer Tips & How-To’s

After a very long, cold and snowy winter, we have finally made it to Spring. With the start of a new season comes a fresh opportunity to find ways to save energy and money. Here are just a few simple things you can do to improve the energy efficiency and comfort of your home as warmer temperatures arrive—by the U.S. Department of Energy:

1. **Service your air conditioner**—easy maintenance such as routinely replacing or cleaning air filters can lower your cooling system’s energy consumption by up to 15%. Also, the beginning of spring is a good time to check your air conditioner’s evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually to ensure the system is performing at optimal levels.
2. **Open windows**—opening windows creates a cross-wise breeze, allowing you to naturally cool your home without switching on the air conditioner on some of these hot days we’ve already seen. This is an ideal tactic when spring temperatures are mild.
3. **Use ceiling fans**—cooling your home with ceiling fans will allow you to raise your thermostat four degrees. This can help lower your electricity bills without sacrificing overall comfort.
4. **Cook outside**—on warmer spring days, keep the heat out of your home by using an outdoor grill instead of indoor ovens. Or on those colder nights, leave your oven open after cooking to disperse some of that otherwise wasted heat inside your home.
5. **Install window treatments**—energy efficient window treatments or coverings such as blinds and shades can slash heat gain when temperatures rise.
6. **Caulk air leaks**—using low-cost caulk to seal cracks and openings in your home keeps warm air out—and cash in your wallet.

7. **Bring in the sunlight**—during the daylight hours, switch off artificial lights and use windows and skylights to brighten your home.
8. **Set the thermostat**—on warm days, setting a programmable thermostat to a higher setting when you are not home can help reduce your energy costs by approximately 10%.
9. **Seal ducts**—air loss through ducts can lead to high electricity costs, accounts for nearly 30% of a cooling system’s energy consumptions. Sealing and insulating ducts can go a long way towards lowering your electricity bill.
10. **Switch on bathroom fans**—bathroom fans suck out heat and humidity from your home, improving comfort.

Did you know...?

...there are now nine Maine municipalities, including Falmouth, who have ordinances on shopping bags? Of those nine, five towns and cities have an outright ban on plastic shopping bags.

...that Maine House lawmakers passed a bill that aims to decrease the use of disposable plastic bags and foam containers? The amended bill—which passed by the House on a largely party-line 78-68 vote—sets a goal of 20 municipalities adopting local ordinances for both plastic bags and foam food or drink containers by 2019. That goal would rise to 50 municipalities by 2029.

...that there is a bill in this Legislative Session that would put a 15 ¢ deposit on small alcohol bottles, also referred to as “nips”? During a February hearing on the bill, Director of the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations reported that Maine sold 8.4 million nips in fiscal year 2016 and expected to sell 12 million in fiscal year 2017.

...Falmouth has partnered with **WindowDressers** out of Rockland to host a community window insert build in the fall? Here’s how it works:

1. Sing up today at www.windowdressers.org
2. Get your windows measured this spring/early summer
3. Participate in the community build in September
4. Save on heating expenses next heating season with new custom made window inserts



Kimberly Darling, Energy and Sustainability Coordinator can be contacted with questions: kdarling@falmouthme.org or (207)699-5337

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.