








Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy and Sustainability News, You Can Use” Volume 8, Issue 2, March 2020– Falmouth, Maine

- 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.
- Know of any energy, environmental, or general sustainability events not listed in the calendar below? Please reach out to Kimberly and she’ll add them in!

Calendar of Local Sustainability Events, March 2020

Event	Date/Time/Location	Description
<p><i>The Story of Bottled Water</i> Film Showing</p>  <p>Natural Resources Council of Maine</p>	<p>March 5 6:00-8:00pm Patagonia 100 Main St., Freeport</p>	<p>This event will kick off Patagonia’s Sustainable Water & Species Diversity month. The evening will begin with a screening of the documentary, <i>The Story of Bottled Water</i>. Sarah Nicholas, NRCM’s Sustainable Maine Director will follow the film with a discussion on water-related legislative updates. Learn how your choice to consume water from reusable containers can benefit our environment. And, what we each can do to shift away from single-use containers for our individual water use. The folks from GoGo Refill in South Portland will be on-hand to share information on their services to refill and recycle. More information can be found at this link.</p>
<p>Organic Practices for Healthy Lawn Care</p> 	<p>March 7 10:00am Skillins Greenhouses 89 Foreside Rd, Falmouth</p>	<p>On March 7, Skillin’s will be hosting a free class, at all of their locations, on Organic Practices for Healthy Lawn Care. Come find some great information on the best organic lawn care practices and start living in a healthier home environment.</p> <p>Also, on March 13, 14 and 15, Skillins will be hosting their 54th Annual Spring Open House!</p>
<p>Is There Life Beyond LEED? An Evening with Mahesh Ramanujam—CEO of US Green Building Council</p> 	<p>March 10 5:30-7:30pm Coastal Enterprises Inc. 30 Federal St., Brunswick</p>	<p>Mahesh Ramanujam is proving that building a more sustainable world is no longer a dream, but a global evolution. As president and CEO of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and Green Business Certification, Inc. (GBCI), he leads a community of 13 million people that’s growing every day. Come meet Mahesh Ramanujam and hear his vision for the future of green building, with networking over local drinks and appetizers. Mahesh will make brief remarks followed by a group discussion. For more information, click here.</p>

<p>Maine Bicentennial's Statehood Day Ceremony</p> 	<p>March 15 1:00pm Augusta Armory 179 Western Ave., Augusta</p>	<p>You are invited to join Governor Janet Mills and the Maine Bicentennial Commission for the Statehood Day Ceremony. The program will feature the Maine Army National Guard colorguard, a land recognition with Maulian Dana of the Penobscot Nation, a review of Maine's story with State Historian Earle Shettleworth, reflections from Poet Laureate Stuart Kestenbaum, addresses from our Congressional delegation, and performances by the combined Bicentennial Choir and Bangor Symphony Orchestra, debuting the specially commissioned piece by Colin Britt, "So Also We Sing: A Maine Trilogy." View the event website here.</p>
<p>Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District's Yardscaping Workshop</p> 	<p>March 26 6:00-8:00pm Cumberland Town Hall 290 Tuttle Rd., Cumberland</p>	<p>Start the growing season off right! Learn ways to grow a beautiful lawn that's safe for families, pets, and the environment while saving money, time, and effort. Topics covered will include how to correctly fertilize, control weeds and thatch, renovate unhealthy lawns, transition to organic care, and more. Whether you maintain your own lawn or contract with professionals, round up your neighbors and be a part of this healthy lawn care made simple workshop. Please register with Ali at 892-4700.</p>
<p>Conservation Lobby Day</p> 	<p>March 26 8:45-11:30am Cross Café in the Cross Building at the State House</p>	<p>During Lobby Day, you will team up with other community members to speak up for the environment and gain the skills to be a persuasive constituent. You'll have the opportunity to learn how to lobby, hear from environmental champions, and meet face-to-face with your elected officials to advance the Environmental Priorities Coalition's 2020 priorities -- policies to start tackling toxic PFAS pollution in Maine by designating these "forever chemicals" as a hazardous substance, to invest in the Land for Maine's Future program, protect clean water in Maine, and strengthen Maine's municipal recycling programs.</p>
<p>2020 Maine Sustainability & Water Conference</p> 	<p>March 26 8:30am-4:00pm Augusta Civic Center 76 Community Dr., Augusta</p>	<p>Originally designed to provide a collaborative nexus for water resource professionals, researchers, consultants, citizens, students, regulators, and planners to exchange information and present new findings on water resource issues in Maine, the conference has grown to include participation from a broad audience of close to 400 participants from across the state. The conference's focus has expanded to encompass a wide range of sustainability challenges facing Maine, including issues related to climate change, energy futures, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism, and municipal planning. Visit this site for more information and to register.</p>

Energy News

Governor Mills Announces New Rebates for Maine People and Businesses to install High Performance Heat Pumps—In January, the Governor announced that Maine was doubling its rebates to help Mainers purchase high-performance heat pumps. The new suite of rebates, which took effect on January 1, 2020, is aimed at helping Maine people and businesses install high-performance heat pumps. The so-called Tier 2 rebate, which applies to the most advanced high-performance heat pump installations meeting new Efficiency Maine requirements, is doubling from \$500 to \$1,000 for the first indoor unit installed and from \$250 to \$500 for the second unit. Heat pumps meeting the so-called Tier 1 rebate standards will continue to be eligible for a \$500 rebate for the first indoor unit and \$250 for a second indoor or outdoor unit, as in prior years. Additionally, enhanced \$2,000 rebates are also now available to homeowners who receive heating assistance through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). More information on all of Efficiency Maine's rebates can be found by clicking [this link](#).

Falmouth Upgrades Streetlights and Interior Lights to Efficient LEDs—The Town of Falmouth recently finished upgrading both their streetlights and interior municipal building's lights to LEDs. The streetlight project is saving the Town close to \$75,000 each year, with an annual energy savings of approximately 209,000 kWh. The Town Hall, Public Works campus (including the transfer station), police department, all three fire stations, and a parks garage will save the Town an additional \$18,325 each year, with an annual energy savings of approximately 80,500 kWh.

New Hybrid Police Cruiser Will Save Falmouth Money and Help Protect the Environment—Falmouth Police Department is one of the first departments in Maine to add a hybrid patrol car with a gas-electric engine to its fleet. "We're excited to have an impact on sustainability and make that commitment to the community and department moving forward," Lt. Jeff Pardue said. The new hybrid cruiser is a 2020 Ford Interceptor Utility. The vehicle also has advanced idling technology, as well as LED lights. [Watch News Center Maine's Clip here!](#)

In Other News...

Recycling is a Work of Art Contest at ecomaine—ecomaine will award up to six area artists or groups with paint supplies and a \$500 stipend to paint drop-off recycling stations, also known as silver bullets. The Recycling is a Work of Art contest is open to anyone who is a resident of one of ecomaine's 70 member communities and entries must be received by **March 6, 2020 at 5 p.m.**

For more information and full contest rules [click here](#), or contact:
Matt Grondin, Communications Manager
(207) 523-3108; grondin@ecomaine.org



Two Sides Clash on Bill to Make Producers Pay for Disposal of Packaging—Supports tell lawmakers that making producers pay to dispose of packaging waste would improve recycling programs and help taxpayers. Businesses and national trade groups say it would be expensive, disruptive and hard to follow. [Follow this link for the Portland Press Herald's Article](#), and other media stories to include [Maine Public Radio](#), and [ABC7](#) covering LD 2104's public hearing that took place on February 26.

Did you know...

...that in the U.S. alone, we consume 1,500 plastic bottles of water per SECOND?

...and, 55% of this bottled water comes from natural springs and aquifers?

...that according to Efficiency Maine Trust, a high-performance heat pump can help an average Maine home reduce its oil consumption by 270-540 gallons per year; reduce its carbon emissions by an estimated 3,600-7,250 pounds per year per home per high-performance heat pump?

...and, when the heat pump initiatives are fully realized, they can save Maine people between \$30-\$60 million annually?

...that in 2019, the food waste material dropped off at the Transfer Station was 29,920 lbs./14.96 tons?

...that in 2019, the food waste material dropped off at Community Park was 2,000 lbs./1 ton?

...that, with these combined totals, Falmouth's food waste drop off program is diverting roughly 32,000 lbs., or **16 tons** of food scraps for 2019?

...that just one of the Police Department's patrol car uses about 3,000 gallons of fuel each year? The new hybrid car is expected to cut that usage by about one third!

...that Falmouth is celebrating Earth Day 50th Anniversary, along with Maine's Bicentennial celebration with a MONTH long calendar of events? It will run from April 22-May 22. Stay tuned for more information!

...that the Falmouth Conservation Commission, in collaboration with the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District's Yardscaping program, is launching an educational campaign on healthy lawn care? The idea is for folks to understand that *soil is alive* and what is applied to individual lawns can potentially have a detrimental impact on the environment. We hope you like the *Living Lawns* logo as much as we do!



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.