



Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 7, Issue 5, April 2019 – Falmouth, Maine

- Spring has arrived, finally! How do you gear up for the change in seasons while being sustainable?
- 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 or sustainability events not listed in the calendar below? Please reach out to Kimberly and she’ll add them in!

Calendar of Local Green Events–May 2019

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date/Time/Location</i>	<i>Description</i>
<p>Sierra Club Maine’s 4th Annual Climate Action Conference</p> 	<p>May 4 8:00am-4:30pm UMaine Hutchinson Center 80 Belmont Ave., Belfast</p>	<p>The Building Thriving Communities Conference will give participants the knowledge and tools needed to empower local action to address climate change in Maine. The conference will include panels, discussions and presentations on creating local Climate Action Teams, building a clean energy future, and using forests and farmlands to help solve the climate crisis. Additional topics will include the Sierra Club's Ready for 100 programs, discussing the impacts of the New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) transmission line through western Maine, and legislation proposed that will create a Maine 'Green New Deal' with Chloe Maxmin, the bill's sponsor. Lightning round presentations will cover climate impacts and actions throughout Maine including Economics, Energy, Food & Agriculture, Forestry, Health, and Ocean & Riparian systems. For more information, follow this link.</p>
<p>Invasive Plants Workshop</p> 	<p>May 7 6:30-8:00pm Lunt Auditorium 74 Lunt Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>Invasive terrestrial and wetland plants can displace native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers, degrade or eliminate wildlife habitat, create thickets that favor disease-carrying ticks, and cause injury due to thorns and skin toxins. These aggressive plants can also be a safety hazard along roadways, interfere with property maintenance, and crowd and overgrow trails and recreational areas. Nancy Olmstead, invasive plant biologist with the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, will discuss the top invasive plant species, why they are so harmful, and what can be done about them. Nancy will also introduce the online mapping tool, iMapInvasives, which allows anyone to map invasive plants and keep track of their management. There will also be local landscape companies offering their services at the event.</p>

<p>NRCM's "Plogging" morning in Lewiston/Auburn</p>  <p>Natural Resources Council of Maine</p>	<p>May 19 11:00am-1:00pm Baxter Brewing 130 Mill St., Lewiston</p>	<p>NRCM is teaming up with Lamey Wellehan and Baxter Brewing for a fun morning of plogging—picking up litter and walking/jogging—in Lewiston/Auburn. Meet at the parking area of Baxter Brewing by 10:45. They will depart at 11:00 a.m. to plog until noon. Walkers and runners are welcome. Bring your gloves to pick up litter. We'll have recycling and trash facilities on hand. They will return to Baxter Brewing at noon where you can grab a bite to eat. NRCM Sustainable Maine outreach coordinator, Chrissy Adamowicz, will present a 20-minute documentary, Plastic Ocean, followed by a talk about our efforts reducing plastics around Maine. During this time, Baxter Brewing will generously donate \$1/drink to NRCM's efforts reducing pollution in Maine. This walk/jog and litter collection is great for all abilities and all ages. Bring the kids, bring the grandkids, or come solo! All are welcome. Visit this link for more information.</p>
<p>2019 Maine Manufacturing Summit</p> 	<p>May 17 7:30am-1:00pm Lost Valley Sky Area 200 Lost Valley Rd., Auburn</p>	<p>This conference is where companies from across all manufacturing sectors and their respective trade associations will gather with a unified voice for manufacturing. The 2019 summit will feature: Business Showcases featuring innovating technology products made by Maine companies; Business Exhibition Tables; and Manufacturing Recognition Awards for: Innovator of the Year, Manufacturer of the Year, and the Pine Tree Award. For registration information, follow this link.</p>
<p>Energy Efficiency in Low-Income Housing—PassivhausMAINE and the Maine Climate Table</p> 	<p>May 23 9:30am-1:00pm Maple Hill Inn and Conference Center 11 Inn Rd., Hallowell</p>	<p>This event is co-sponsored by PassivHausMAINE and the Maine Climate Table and will draw participants from public housing, low-income and climate activists, State government, builders and developers as well as environmental organizations. Organizers are seeking answers to questions like: How can low-income residents of public housing benefit from Net Zero/PassivHaus construction technologies that produce bare minimum energy bills and simultaneously produce other significant benefits like improved indoor air quality, resilience in extreme weather, sound attenuation and carbon emissions reductions? Why not? This will be a facilitated discussion with travel reimbursement available to those who need it. Presenters on the Resource Panel will include representatives from Avesta Housing, Maine State Housing Authority, and PassivHausMAINE. More event information can be found here can be found here.</p>

Energy News

Maine Climate Council Would Lead State's 100% Renewable Energy Efforts—Gov. Janet Mills has introduced bipartisan legislation to create the Maine Climate Council, which would develop an action plan and timetable for meeting the state's clean energy goals. The council would consist of several department commissioners, state leaders, science and technical experts, business and nonprofit leaders, municipal leaders, a tribal representative, and a representative of Maine youth. It will be charged with leading Maine's efforts to reduce Maine's greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions 45% by 2030 and at least 80% by 2050 and with achieving 80% renewable energy in Maine's electricity sector – specifically energy consumed in Maine – by 2030 and 100% by 2050. [Read more here.](#)

Maine's Energy Regulators are Poised to Vote on Key Permit for \$1 Billion CMP Project—Maine's top energy regulators will likely rule on whether to grant a key permit for Central Maine Power's controversial \$1B proposal to build a corridor through western Maine to deliver hydropower from Quebec to Massachusetts and other parts of New England's electricity grid. During a special session, the three commissioners of the Maine Public Utilities Commission will either concur or disagree with their staff's March 29 recommendation to grant CMP the needed certificate of public convenience and necessity for its project. It's also possible they may come up with their own position on the project, experts said. For the full story [follow this link.](#)

Mills Signs Bill to Preserve Incentive for Solar Energy Producers—the measure allows homeowners to continue receiving credits for solar power they generate and send to the regional grid. By signing the bill, Mills both ended the planned phase-out of the credit system for excess solar energy and rescinded a related requirement that utilities install a second meter on homes with solar energy systems. Read more [by clicking here.](#)

Federal Government Designated Eight Alternative Fuel Corridors in Maine—the new corridors will link Maine's metropolitan areas and major tourist destinations with similar corridors in Quebec and southern New England. While the designation doesn't currently come with any dedicated infrastructure funding, states with designated corridors are likely to be more competitive for future federal funding as well as funding from the Volkswagen diesel emissions settlement, said Kristina Egan, executive director of the Greater Portland Council of Governments. The road corridors extend from Jackman to Bar Harbor, from Bangor to Kittery, and from Portland to the mountains of western Maine. Read the [full story here.](#)

In Other News...

Minnesota Court of Appeals rules State can Enforce Law that Favors Burning Trash over Landfilling—Minnesota officials can penalize Twin Cities landfills for accepting garbage that could have been burned instead, an appeals court ruled in April. The ruling bolsters the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's effort to enforce a 30-year-old state law prioritizing burning the Metro area's garbage vs. burying it. Landfills owned by the nation's largest trash firms, Waste Management and Republic Services, sued the state in 2017 after the agency fined them. [Read more here.](#)

Four Communities Work Together to Reduce Recycling Contamination—Despite outreach to residents about only putting items that can be recycled into curbside containers, many communities are still experiencing high contamination rates. In response, the towns of Falmouth, Scarborough and Windham, and the city of South Portland, are hiring two summer interns to track what's going into recycling bins and to educate users about what can be accepted and what can't. [Follow this link to read more.](#)

Yarmouth to Close Two Recycling Sites—to stem the increased costs of recycling and trash disposal, and to reduce recycling contamination, the town will permanently close its two satellite recycling areas as of May 1. The town estimated that by eliminating the sites on Route 1 and Route 88 it will save about \$36,000 a year.

Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

A well-designed landscape not only can add beauty to your home but believe it or not, can also reduce your heating and cooling costs! A well-placed tree, shrub, or vine can deliver the effective shade, act as a windbreak and reduce your energy bills.

The Department of Energy recommends the following tips to save energy with landscaping in our cold climate:

- Use dense windbreaks to protect the home from cold winter winds.
- Allow the winter sun to reach south-facing windows.
- Shade south and west windows and walls from the direct summer sun, if summer overheating is a problem.

It is also recommended to consider the climate immediately surrounding your home as well as the regional climate, referred to as the microclimate. For more information, visit the Department of Energy's page:

[Energy Saver 101: Everything You Need to Know About Landscaping](#)

Did you know...

...that Efficiency Maine offers rebates from air sealing and energy assessments, to boilers and even clothes washers and air purifiers? [Follow this link for current rebates for energy upgrades!](#)

...that carefully positioned trees can save up to 25% on the energy a typical household uses?

...that a well-planned landscape can reduce an unshaded home's air conditioning costs by 15-50%?

...that certain plants deter pests? Below are photos of a few, but visit [12 plants that repel unwanted insects](#) for more information! Why use chemicals when mother nature can accomplish the same thing?



Basil



Lavender



Lemongrass



Alliums



Chrysanthemums



Petunias

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.