



Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 6, Issue 5, May 2018 – Falmouth, Maine

- The days are getting warmer and longer—Spring is here! How do you gear up for living sustainably in the Spring season?
- 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-May 2018

Event	Date/Time/Location	Description
<p>Island Energy Conference, <i>Resilient Together</i></p> 	<p>May 3-5 Congregation Bet Ha'am 81 Westbrook Street South Portland</p>	<p>Join the Island Institute on May 3-5, 2018, in South Portland and Islesboro, for the region's premier forum on community-based energy solutions. The 2018 Island Energy Conference will bring together island leaders and energy experts from New England and beyond to discuss common energy challenges and the resources available to address them. This year's theme is <i>Resilient Together</i>, and will highlight what islanders are doing to increase the resilience of their energy systems and communities in the face of an increasingly unpredictable world. Visit the Island Institute's website for more information.</p>
<p>Environmental Justice: A Social Work Perspective</p> 	<p>May 5 9:30am-4:30pm University of Maine, Orono Donald P. Corbett Building</p>	<p>NRCM Executive Director Lisa Pohlmann will be part of a panel on conservation as part of the University of Maine School of Social Work's conference, “Environmental Justice: A Social Work Perspective.” Maine faces several environmental challenges, such as few efforts made in conservation, nature's effects on mental health, and how maltreatment of the environment affects our food. It is preferred you register for this event beforehand. To do so, please go to this link.</p>

<p>Rising Water: Adapting Maine Communities</p> 	<p>May 8 Augusta City Hall Learning Gallery 16 Cony St., Augusta</p>	<p>This workshop is designed for anyone interested in how their city or town can access resources and tools to better respond to imminent threats of flooding. Many of Maine's communities are located right on rivers, estuaries, and the ocean and are facing serious challenges with sea level rise and increased precipitation during storm events. For more information on this workshop, follow this link.</p>
<p>Maine Wood and Sustainability Conference</p> 	<p>May 9 7:45am-8:15pm Hannaford Hall, USM 88 Bedford St., Portland</p>	<p>This conference will strengthen the personal ties and supply chains between builders and designers and Maine's far-flung network of wood producers. Architects, engineers, builders and developers will have opportunities to meet directly with a variety of wood producers and key players in the development of next generation wood products. Presentations are planned on mass timber and other engineered timbers; panelized design, construction and renovation; air-tight, prefab construction; and forestry. This will be an opportunity to strengthen and clarify Maine's potential for championing a carbon light/neutral future through sustainable construction, while simultaneously demonstrating a market for Maine's sustainably-managed forests and next generation forest products. Click here to register.</p>
<p>Falmouth Rotary Club's Electronic Recycling Collection Day</p> 	<p>May 13 9:00am-1:00pm Falmouth Shopping Center Parking Lot (Shaws) Route 1, Falmouth</p>	<p>Recycle your unwanted or broken electronics!</p> <p><i>Items accepted:</i> Household electronics including computers, monitors, keyboards and mice, cords, printers, scanners, TVs, DVD players, game consoles, VCR's, radios, stereos, microwave ovens, batteries, cellphones and more.</p> <p><i>Not accepted:</i> Large or small appliances (ovens, washers and dryers, stoves, refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, toasters etc.), de-humidifiers, fluorescent bulbs, thermostats and thermometers, or hazardous household wastes.</p> <p>*The above items ARE accepted at Falmouth's Transfer Station*</p>

<p>Cumberland County Master Gardener Plant Sale</p> 	<p>May 19 8:00am-12:00pm Barron Center 1145 Brighton Ave., Portland</p> 	<p>The University of Maine Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteers will help you select plants and answer questions you might have. Selections include native and pollinator plants, vegetable seedlings, herbs, perennials, shrubs, and annuals. They will also offer gently used gardening items in the annual Master Gardener calendar raffle. Proceeds from the sale support community projects and educational programs as well as the Children’s Garden at the UMaine Gardens at Tidewater Farm. For more information, follow this link.</p>
<p>Celebration of Rachel Carson with Sandra Steingraber</p> 	<p>May 24 8:30pm Maine Audubon 20 Gilsland Farm Rd., Falmouth</p> 	<p>In partnership with Maine Audubon, the Environmental Health Strategy Center invites you to join them on a lilac-scented spring evening to hear an enthusiastic and sought-after public speaker. Dr. Sandra Steingraber is an ecologist, author, and cancer survivor well-known across the world for her groundbreaking book and documentary film, <i>Living Downstream</i>. Now she’s written the introductory essay to a just-released Library of America anthology of Rachel Carson’s work. Her talk will bring Carson’s legacy to life—and show how Carson is a model today for environmental champions who ground their activism in science. For reception and presentation registration, follow this link.</p>
<p>Falmouth Fest and Old Home Days</p> 	<p>May 26 10:00am-4:00pm Falmouth Community Park 19 Winn Rd., Falmouth</p> 	<p>Join the Town of Falmouth for a town-wide community festival to mark its 300th anniversary in 2018. Enjoy musical entertainment, food, living history demonstrations, exhibits, old fashioned contests and games, artisans, balloon animals, face painting, mad science, wagon rides, magic, and more! REAC will be diverting all the waste generated during the event at the waste station! Come say hi!</p> <p>Follow this link for: tickets and more information</p> <p>Follow this link for: volunteer opportunities.</p>

Energy News

Maine Public Utilities Commission Plans Rate Hike Hearing in Presque Isle—Emera Maine filed the proposed rate increase on October 2, 2017, with the Maine PUC, asking that the company's total revenue requirement for its distribution infrastructure and operations be increased to \$93.8 million, a 12 percent increase. Public hearings are scheduled to be held on May 1, with the Commission expecting to issue its decision in this case in June 2018.

LED, Solar Projects are Moving Ahead—Mount Desert is installing pilot project LED streetlights while receiving public feedback. Also in Mount Desert, solar panels will be coming online, pending the state electrical inspection, on the roof of the town's highway garage center. It is anticipated that the garage will consume most of the estimated 67,000 kilowatt hours of electricity that the solar panels will generate each year.

Massive Fairfield Solar Project gets DEP Approval—The two projects, proposed in Fairfield and Clinton, are expected to produce 20 megawatts of energy each, enough to power upwards of 3,000 homes, and are projected to cost \$30 million each. The Fairfield project has become the largest planned solar project in Maine to receive this DEP certification. [Read the full article here.](#)

Neighbors not Sold on Cumberland Solar Array—The Cumberland Town Council authorized its Finance Committee to negotiate a power purchase agreement with ReVision Energy. That pact must return to the Council for final approval, which could happen May 14. Relocating the array on a site other than the capped landfill is being looked at, based on concerns from nearby residents. [Follow this link to read more.](#)

Freeport Weighs Collaborative Solar Energy Project—The Town of Freeport is considering a three-way collaboration with Regional School Unit 5 and the Freeport Sewer District on a joint solar project. A project like this is likely to generate more interest from bidders, installers, and investors, which would “hopefully result in lower installation costs and/or lower energy purchase rates,” said the Town Manager. [Read the full article here.](#)

In Other News...

Five Coastal Maine Towns Defy Their Waste Contracts so Their Garbage Doesn't End up in Landfills—Rather than have their solid waste dumped in a landfill, five coastal towns have chosen to violate their contracts and instead send their waste to the Penobscot Energy Recovery Company. Read more about this rogue story, [here.](#)

Opening of Waste Facility Delay Causes Layoffs, Forces Waste to Landfills—Partners in the Fiberight biofuel solid waste processing plant in Hampden say the facility may not be ready to open until late September. The delay is forcing more than 100 communities in central and eastern Maine to temporarily send their waste to two landfills. Some critics are now questioning whether that approach is even legal. [Follow this link](#) for the full story.

Ban by Ban and Bag by Bag, Maine Municipalities Making a Difference—The communities that limit disposable plastics still represent less than one-fifth of Maine's population, but their actions signal an important shift in public consciousness. For this full article, [follow this link.](#)

King Talks Sea Level Infrastructure with County, Town Leaders—U.S. Sen. Angus King had lunch at Sarah's in Wiscasset Friday with Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission officials, Lincoln County EMA director Casey Stevens, and officials of several towns impacted by sea level rise. [Read the full story here.](#)

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-facing windows and walls from the direct summer sun, if summer overheating is a problem.

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 is now offering \$100 rebates on ENERGY STAR® certified smart thermostats? To get certified, each model gets tested in over 1,000 homes and must demonstrate an average of 8% heating system run time reduction. They also provide greater convenience and control compared to conventional thermostats.

...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.