




Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 5, Issue 6, June, 2017 – Falmouth, Maine

- It’s almost summer! 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- June, 2017

Event	Date/Time/Location	Description
Solar & Heat Pump 101 	June 2 12:00-1:00pm Wells Public Library 1434 Post Rd., Wells	Have you ever wondered how you can help transition into a clean energy future? Come learn how you can use the renewable resource of solar power to your benefit, become more energy efficient, save money and have less of an impact on the climate. Find out what makes your home a good site for solar power, how much these systems cost, and what you can expect for a return on your investment. Also, learn about hot water systems, efficient air source heat pumps, electric vehicle charging stations and more. This event is free and open to the public, but please RSVP to Brittany at (207) 221-6342, or by email at bangelo@revisionenergy.com .
Spring Festival on the Farm 	June 3 10:00am-3:00pm Wolfe’s Neck Farm 184 Burnett Rd., Freeport	This year’s Spring Festival will continue the tradition of great fun and learning for the whole family at Wolfe’s Neck Farm. Come enjoy music, games, demonstrations and learning activities. There will be opportunities to explore the trails and gardens, interact with the animals, learn about seeds and plants, and try your hand at making wool rag rugs! For more information, follow this link .
Portland Green Drinks 	June 13 5:30-8:00pm Find details on this month’s location at this link .	Portland Greendrinks hosts monthly meetups, connecting you to good green folks, businesses, and non-profits that drive the culture, economy, and creative spirit of Portland, Maine. Location changes each month and always features local beers with non-alcoholic options, too. BYO-vessel for \$5, or purchase a corn cup for \$8.

<p>Maine Environmental Sustainability Network (MESN)</p> 	<p>June 16 8:30-10:30am Maine Audubon 20 Gilsland Farm Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>Besides connecting with friends and colleagues, old and new, at this event, attendees will learn about the <i>Maine Energy Planning Roadmap</i> with Jeff Marks, Executive Director of E2Tech. This project is a joint effort of the Governor’s Energy Office, the US Department of Energy’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and E2Tech. The Roadmap Project aims to achieve energy and costs savings in all sectors; reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions; support the growth of a robust energy market and workforce in Maine and the region; and facilitate discussions among stakeholders and agencies. For more information, click here.</p>
<p>Northern New England Energy Conference</p> 	<p>June 18-20 Sebasco Resort 29 Kenyon Rd., Phippsburg</p>	<p>The Maine Energy Marketers Association (MEMA) and the Oil Heat Council of New Hampshire (OHCNH) will be hosting an Inaugural Northern New England Energy Conference located at the Sebasco Resort in Phippsburg. Discussion has taken place over the past few years between event organizers on combining their conferences, enabling vendors to spend more time with the fuel dealers and to bring in quality education sessions to all. For more information, click here.</p>
<p>Portland Food Launch</p> 	<p>June 22 <i>The Launch</i>— 8:00am-5:00pm <i>The Festival</i>—5:00-9:00pm Thompson’s Point, Portland</p>	<p>The Portland Food Launch is Maine’s premiere one-day celebration of local food. The morning and afternoon will include educational sessions and networking for food entrepreneurs in “startup, scale-up and accelerate” business phases. The day will include major announcements regarding the Greater Portland Sustainable Food Production Cluster. For more information and to purchase tickets, follow this link.</p>
<p>Competitive Energy Services (CES) Energy Seminar 2017</p> 	<p>June 29 1:00-5:30pm University of Southern Maine, Portland Campus, 314 Forest Ave. Glickman Library, 7th floor</p>	<p>At this event, you will have the chance to connect with CES energy advisors and have your questions answered about market conditions, efficiency strategies, changing regulations, sustainable trends, and all things energy. For more information on this seminar with Competitive Energy Service, and to register for the event, click here.</p>

Energy News

Old Port Parking Garage Does Double Duty as Solar Farm—The array of nearly 600 panels—the largest solar photovoltaic array in Portland—will produce electricity for the nearby Hyatt Place Portland Old Port hotel. For the full article, [follow this link](#).

Old Town Mill Eyed for Full-Scale Plant to Turn Wood Pulp into Ingredient for Diesel, Jet Fuel—The Old Town Fuel and Fiber mill could become the site of a \$60 million production facility making a raw material that can help turn fiber into jet fuel. “The biggest obstacle now is financing,” says Stephen Fitzpatrick, president of Biofine Technology LLC, which is partnering with UMaine on a pilot plant at that site. For the full article, [click here](#).

Bill to Move Monhegan Wind Power Project Draws Crowd to Legislative Hearing—Supporters say the legislation is necessary to protect the island’s lobstering and tourism, but opponents say it would kill a UMaine project that could spark new industry built around deep-water turbines. Follow [this link](#) for the full article.

University of Maine at Farmington Biomass Plant Exceeds Expectations in First Year of Operation—As part of the university’s sustainability plan, fuel for the plant must be sourced within 50 miles of the campus, cutting down on the plant’s carbon footprint. The \$165,000 the university paid for wood chips this past year generated an additional \$1.2 million in local economic activity.

Consultants: Plan to Use Landfill Gas to Produce Electricity at Augusta’s Hatch Hill Viable—The Hatch Hill landfill is expected to produce enough methane gas from decomposing garbage to power generators for the next 15 years. **Augusta Councilors Approve Funding for Hatch Hill Trash-Electricity Plant**—The city will spend about \$240,000 to design the system stated above, to make electricity and reduce electric bills. For the full story [click here](#).

Company Plans Pellet Mill in Sanford—A company that plans to turn sawmill residue into wood pellets for heating fuel to be sold throughout New England is poised to establish itself in Sanford. The company will purchase property from Pleasant River Lumber for the pellet manufacturing plant. They will contract with Pleasant River Lumber’s Sanford operation for their sawmill residue, as well as purchase from others. For more on this story, [click here](#).

In Other News...

Poland Spring Eyes Lincoln Area for \$50 Million Bottling Plant—Poland Spring has been testing wells and scouting plant locations in the Lincoln area since March. Company officials must weigh expansion costs, find a plant site and develop backup water sources before deciding whether to expand. For the full story, [click here](#).

Gulf of Maine will Become Too Warm for Many Key Fish, Report Says—A new study by federal fisheries scientists predicts the warming of the Gulf of Maine will cause a dramatic contraction of suitably cool habitat for a range of key commercial fish species there. On the other hand, lobsters are more likely to find hospitable areas. For more on this story, [follow this link](#).

Invasive Crabs are Putting the Pinch on Another Clam Harvest—Clammers face a shrinking harvest again this year after predator green crabs survived the mild winter. The second mild winter in a row means Maine’s tidal flats will likely be overrun by large, ravenous invasive green crabs this summer. But one scientist may have an answer—aquaculture. [Click here](#) for the full story.

New England Fisheries Council Propose Deep Sea Coral-Protection Rules—The New England Fisheries Council will be conducting seven public hearings to solicit comments on the alternatives under consideration in the Draft Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment. The draft amendment includes several draft alternatives for potential new management areas to protect deep-sea corals in the Gulf of Maine and in the slope/canyon region south of George’s Bank. For more on this story, [follow this link](#).

Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

"It all Starts at the Bottom: Tips for Constructing a Healthy, Energy Efficient Foundation"

By Erin Smith, with the Sunrise Guide. Follow [this link](#) for the detailed article.

Because the foundation is part of the "heated envelope," of the home, designing to control moisture, minimize air leakage and minimize heat loss is just as important in the foundation as in every other part of the building. Here are some tips to help you avoid mistakes that can be both costly and difficult to fix after your home is completed:

1. Sub-grade drainage

Because your foundation footing, frostwall, or basement wall is installed into the ground where it interferes with the normal sub-grade drainage, a system to remove water from under the foundation must be installed.

2. Moisture barrier

Barriers should be used on and around all foundation concrete footings, floors and walls, as well as exposed earth/ledge areas to provide an effective isolation from moisture in the ground.

3. Insulate

The foundation should be completely insulated: walls and floors. Uninsulated foundations allow warm, humid air to condense on cold, concrete surfaces, leading to mold growth and building rot.

4. Control air leakage

The foundation should be made as airtight as possible. Use waterproof caulking and sealants to prevent air from moving in and out of the foundation.

5. Build radon out

Because one-third of Maine homes are likely to have unacceptable levels of radon, install radon preventative features during construction of your home.

6. Landscape properly

Make sure the soil is pitched and slopes away from your foundation. Be sure not to place foundation plantings over exhaust outlets or air intakes.

7. Living spaces are for people

Ensure adequate ventilation in any space that will be occupied by people.

Did you know...?

...that the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardens Association's campus in Unity, where the Common Ground Fair is held, has installed a series of solar panels that make up a 102-kilowatt array? [Click here](#) to read an article on this new project.

... that a single green crab can consume 40 half-inch clams a day?

...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:

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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.