

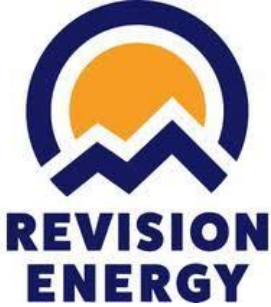






## Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 6, Issue 8, August 2018 – Falmouth, Maine

- How do you live sustainably in the Summer season? What are ways you keep down waste during get-togethers? How do you keep your home cool in these warm summer months?
- 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](mailto:kdarling@falmouthme.org) with your thoughts and suggestions.

## Calendar of Local Green Events- August 2018

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date/Time/Location</b>	<b>Description</b>
<p><b>Falmouth300</b> Community Picnic &amp; Street Dance</p> 	<p>August 8 6:00-8:30pm Village Park, Hat Trick Dr., Falmouth</p> <p>Fireworks from Legion Field</p> 	<p>Old fashioned games, good conversation with friends, a summer evening outdoors—what could be better! Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and picnic dinners and join you neighbors for an old-fashioned community picnic at Village Park. Or, purchase your meal from the Cumberland-Falmouth Farmer’s Market who will be staying open late for this event. There will also be food trucks offering food and beverages, and the Town has partnered with We Compost It! to divert as much of the waste generated to be made into compost. A great night of simple pleasures to mark Falmouth’s 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a community. See you there!</p>
<p><b>Solar Lunch and Learn</b></p> 	<p>August 10 12:00-1:00pm ReVision Energy Office 142 Presumpscot St., Portland</p>	<p>Have you ever wondered how you can transition into a clean energy future? Come learn all about solar power at this lunch and learn where ReVision will give you all the tools you need to know for a clean energy transition at your home. Over the past 10 years, solar technology has dropped in price by more than 75%, making today, more than ever, a great time to invest. Contact Jill at <a href="mailto:jmclaughlin@revisionenergy.com">jmclaughlin@revisionenergy.com</a> with questions.</p>
<p><b>Portland Green Drinks</b></p> 	<p>August 14 5:30-8:00pm Location to be determined</p>	<p>Portland Greendrinks host monthly meetups connecting you to good green folks, businesses and nonprofits that drive the culture, economy, and creative spirit of Portland, Maine. The location of the gatherings changes every month, and always feature local beers with non-alcoholic options. Bring your own vessel for \$5 or purchase a corn cup for \$8. Find details and this month’s location by <a href="#">following this link</a>.</p>

<p><b>Life Happens Outside Festival</b></p> 	<p>August 17-19 Hosted by L.L. Bean Freeport, Maine</p>	<p>This year marks the second annual Life Happens Outside Festival—a celebration of active outdoor lifestyles for all ages and abilities. This event is free for everyone! Presented by Teen to Trails, this weekend celebration has something for the whole family—from Maine’s Outdoor Film Festival, to stand up paddle boarding, nature walks, yoga and so much more! For more information, <a href="#">visit the website here.</a></p>
<p><b>Sunset Seminar— “Protecting Nature in Maine’s Coastal Waters”</b></p>  <p>Natural Resources Council of Maine</p>	<p>August 22 7:00-8:30pm Camden Yacht Club 68 Bayview St., Camden</p>	<p>Join the Natural Resources Council of Maine CEO Lisa Pohlmann for a Sunset Seminar in Camden. Lisa will discuss current challenges facing Maine’s ocean waters as they relate to policy debates in the state, and how NRCM is working to address them. Learn about restoring sea-run fisheries through dam removal, promoting policies to address climate change, and ways to reduce single-use plastic materials.</p>
<p><b>2018 Efficiency Maine Annual Symposium</b></p> 	<p>August 24 8:30am-6:00pm University of New England, Innovation Hall 772 Stevens Ave., Portland</p>	<p>Attend Efficiency Maine’s annual symposium for presentation, exhibits, workshops and panels on energy efficiency in Maine with industry leaders, contractors and policy makers. At the event, the Trust will release the first draft of its three-year strategic plan, where staff will present the plan’s highlights, answer questions and take oral comments and suggestions from the public. Written comments on the Plan will be accepted for 10 days following the hearing. The <a href="#">event agenda can be found at this link</a>, and you can <a href="#">register here.</a></p>

## Energy News

**Portland Tests Smart Traffic Signals in Trailblazing Effort to Put the Brakes on Congestion**—Portland is testing new, high-tech traffic signals designed to constantly measure and respond to traffic flow, so motorists spend less time stuck in congestion and waiting at red lights. The high-tech devices to be tried out at Morrill’s Corner use radar to control vehicle flow and speed up travel. [Read more here.](#) In other news, Portland has been selected for a pilot project to test software that maps local traffic rules and restrictions. Officials hope the program will help attract companies who are developing autonomous vehicles. Read that story, by clicking the link: [Portland Selected as a Testing Ground for Self-Driving Car Technology.](#)

**Class Action Lawsuit to be Filed Against CMP for High Bills**—Three law firms filed a class action complaint in the Cumberland County Superior Court against Central Maine Power on behalf of customers of the utility who claim they were overcharged for electricity. Also, in the beginning of July, Governor LePage added 13 more vetoes to his pile, one of which was a bill that would require utility shareholders to bear the costs of audits. [Follow this link for that story.](#)

**Maine Public Advocate Skeptical of \$2.5B Plan to ‘Harden’ Power Grid**—Central Maine Power says it would boost reliability in the face of harsh weather, but Barry Hobbins, Maine’s Public Advocate, says the utility will have to ensure that ratepayers don’t cover too much of the costs. The new Plan includes the installation of new poles, insulating wires that might touch trees, and more tree-trimming. The company is also in the midst of an investigation into billing and software problems in Maine. [Read the full story here.](#) The Public Advocate also shares some concerns with [CMP Giving \\$50 Million to Help Low-Income Customers in Massachusetts](#), calling it “insulting” and raises questions about why Maine isn’t being offered a similar level of assistance as Massachusetts.

**CMP Touts Benefits of Power Line Project in Farmington**—The Proposed New England Clean Energy Project, which the utility is planning after being awarded a bid from Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, would consist of 189 miles total of transmission line carrying hydropower from Quebec to Massachusetts, to be complete by 2022. The project was discussed at a public hearing in Farmington, drawing around 100 people, many of which were in opposition. [Follow this link to read more.](#)

**Biddeford Mill Slated for Maine’s Largest Privately-Held Solar Project**—The mills of Biddeford and Saco originally got their energy from water wheels that were placed in hand dug sluiceways under the textile factory in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. Now, developer Doug Sanford will install 1,200 solar panels on the rooftops of the million-square foot Pepperell Mill Campus, which houses a mix of light manufacturing, commercial businesses, and residential units. [Follow this link to read more.](#)

**Brunswick Residents Appeal Town’s Assessment on Solar Panels**— Seven residents in Brunswick has asked the Town not to add solar panels on their property assessments. Their attorney argues it’s arbitrary, discriminatory and counter to state policy supporting solar energy. [Follow this link for the full article.](#)

## Recycling News

**Sanford Mails Updated Recycling Rules to Every Household**—Every household in Sanford and Springvale Village received a mailing that outlines just what ecomaine will accept as recyclable. The mailing was in response to a firestorm of calls that erupted after the City’s contracted trash and recyclable hauler, Casella Waste Systems, put notices on some recycling bins set out at curbside and declined to accept them.

**Outreach Grows in Response to Changing Rules of Recycling**—The impact of the Chinese import ban on 24 types of ‘scrap’ is being felt in the U.S. where waste management companies, including ecomaine, are trying to change customers’ recycling habits. Contaminants, things that do not belong in the recycling stream, ecomaine sees most frequently are *plastic wrap or film, plastic bags and rope or string* (Please DO NOT recycle these items!)

**Cumberland Residents Told Changing Market Means New Rules for Recyclables**—China used to be willing to pay more than domestic markets for recycling and were highly tolerant of contamination. While the industry standard for tolerated contamination is 5 percent, China once accepted as much as 30 percent. “We can clean it up, but our facility is designed to sort and separate mixed recyclables; separate the cans and the plastic from the paper,” Roche, CEO of ecomaine noted. “That’s the primary design of our facility; not to remove non-recyclable materials.” The facility uses mechanical and optical separation, as well as manual labor, to sort out the contaminants, and has so far internalized the extra costs associated with the changing markers through their reserve funds but will revisit the matter in September.

## In Other News...

**Northern Maine Carbon Offset Project to Help Combat Climate Change**—The project, announced June 26, involves a 10-year agreement with Climate Trust Capital, a U.S. based private investment fund that’s putting \$2.2 million into the project. The Nature Conservancy, who owns the land, has made a long-term commitment to maintain increased timber stocking on the land so that carbon can be stored. The project, 124,000 acres of forest along the St. John River, blends forest management, wildlife habitat and financial incentives to address climate change. [Read more here.](#)

## Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

### *Improper recycling will start costing ratepayers money!*

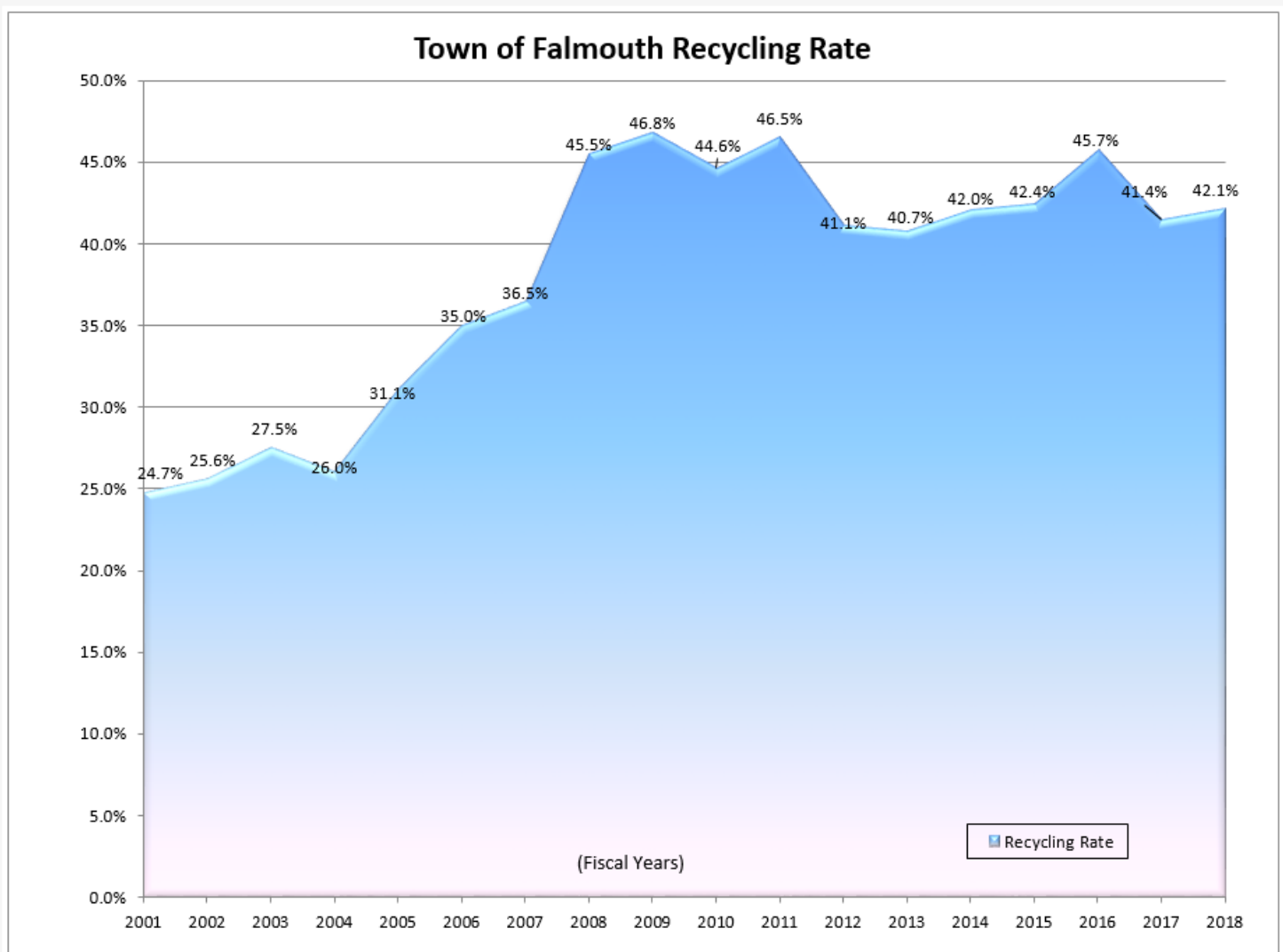
If you're unsure if it can or cannot be recycled...

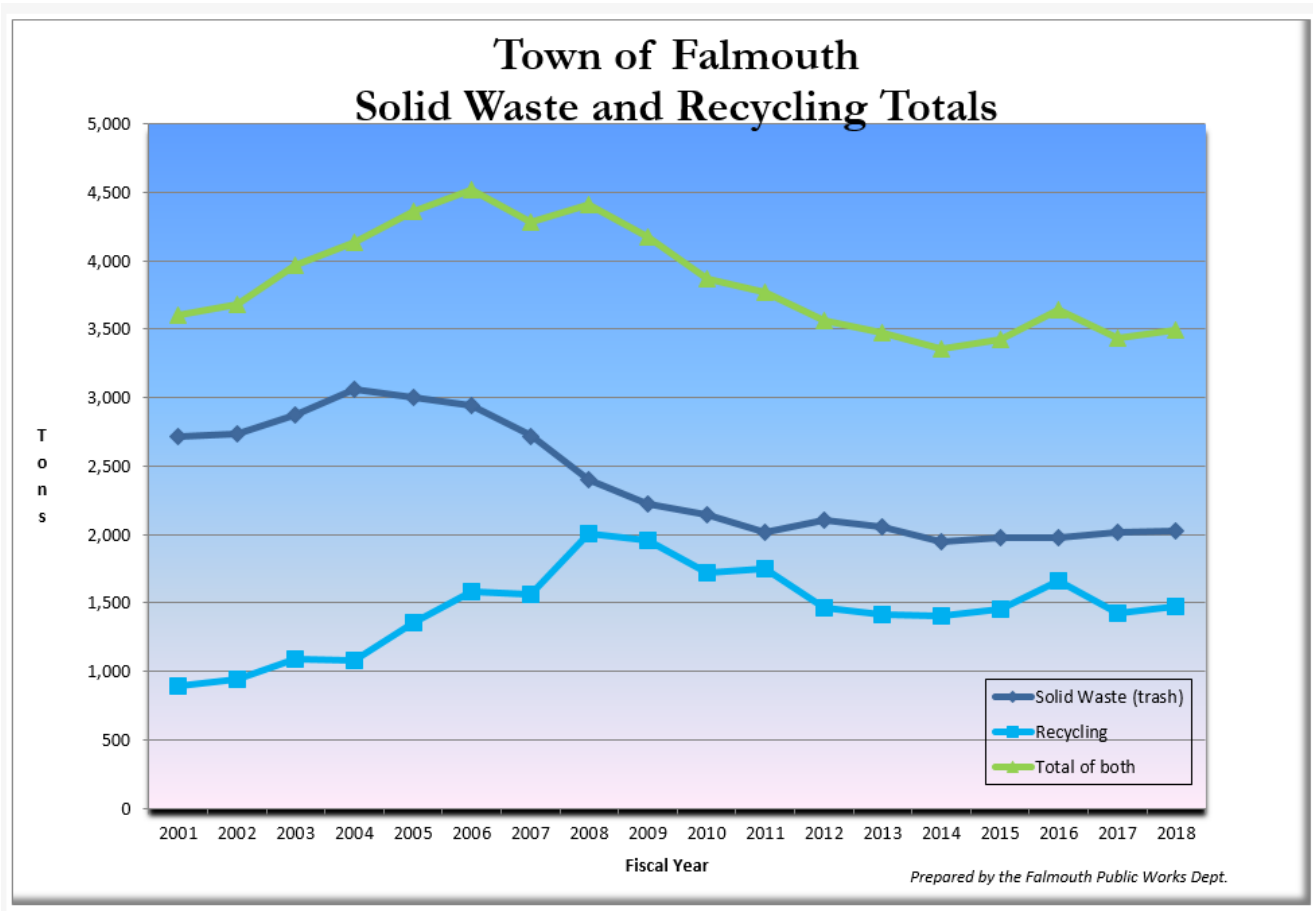
- Visit [www.ecomaine.org](http://www.ecomaine.org)
- Download the RECYLOPEDIA ([Instructions here](#)) or search for it in the App Store. Small handouts with instructions for the app are available in the Clerks area at Town Hall.
- Get the kids involved! The **Wicked Smaht Recycler** game can be found [at this site](#), and you might learn a few new things if you play, too!

### *Did you know...*

.... since mid-May, Falmouth's contamination rate for recycling has dropped from roughly 20% to 9% as of July 30<sup>th</sup>? Keep up the good work and be sure to ***only recycle the right things!***

...of all ecomaine's communities, Falmouth has the highest recycling rate in the region for the last fiscal year?





**SINGLE SORT RECYCLING**

ACCEPTED MATERIALS:  
GLASS, TIN, ALUMINUM,  
PLASTIC (1-7), CARDBOARD,  
MIXED PAPER, NEWSPAPERS  
AND MAGAZINES

**ABSOLUTELY NO GARBAGE!**

SmartSigns • 800-913-0411 • 5400

It is very  
important  
**we recycle**  
**only the**  
**right**  
**things!**

**DO NOT BAG**  
Recyclables

**NO PLASTIC BAGS IN THE RECYCLING CART**

Questions about which bin it goes in?  
Download the FREE Recyclopeda app!

ecomaine.org ecomaine 207-773-1738

**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.