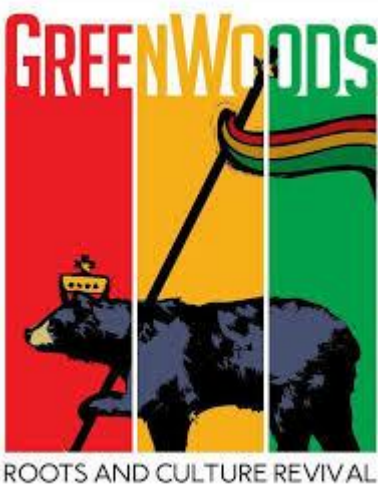






Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

"Energy News You Can Use" Volume 7, Issue 8, August 2019 – Falmouth, Maine

- Hot enough for ya? Keep reading for tips on keeping cool while saving money!
- 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–August 2019

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date/Time/Location</i>	<i>Description</i>
Green Woods Roots & Culture Revival 	August 9-11 4:00-10:00pm Thomas Point Beach & Campground 29 Meadow Rd., Brunswick	A biofuel and reggae powered roots music festival, now in its 5th season showcasing locally harvested and produced foods and goods, craft beer and other fermented products, plant-based technology and herbal medicines. Featuring an ongoing permaculture installation open to attendees, living soil demos and a live mural artist. Come together and share in a broad range of musical styles and culture in an open-minded and laid-back atmosphere. Enjoy a plethora of activities on site including disc golf, kayak and stand-up paddle board rentals, a yoga workshop, a full playground and games for kids & adults; corn hole, horseshoes, Ludo (a Jamaican board game like Sorry!) Relax in the Beer Garden or on the beach or stimulate your mind/body/soul with Healing Arts, Eco Awareness, Social Justice exhibitors and more. Click here for more information.
Farm to Festival 5K 	August 10 9:30am Roberts Farm Preserve 64 Roberts Rd., Norway	This is truly a celebration of Western Maine's Local Food Movement in Downtown Norway (only one hour from Falmouth!) You'll hear music as you approach downtown Norway starting at 12pm, interspersed with information about local farmers, local food, local brews, and local action. Organizers believe that to have an impact globally, we must come together and create locally. Creating a local food system that nourishes body, mind and soul is one place to start and you can find out all about it when you come and enjoy. Kick off the Foothills Food Festival with a 5K trail run on the grassed and wooded trails at Roberts Farm Preserve. The race will be started with a vegetable hurl using the Roberts Farm trebuchet. All runners will get a Foothills Food Festival t-shirt. Prizes will be fresh local veggies. For 5K registration, follow this link.

<p>4th Annual Gray Blueberry Festival</p> 	<p>August 10 9:30am-4:00pm Henry Pennell Municipal Complex 24 Main St., Gray</p>	<p>The word is spreading that this annual family-centered festival is a heap of fun! The festival features live bands, local artisans, and food vendors peddling delicious blueberry-themed treats. It offers activities like the popular corn hole course, pie eating contests, fun run dash, diaper derby, rock climbing, Pennell Clock tours, wagon rides, face painting, kids' activity tent, lawn games, dunk tank, and a whole lot more! Visit their Facebook event page for more information.</p>
<p>Maine Permaculture Day</p> 	<p>August 17 <i>Statewide</i> Visit the Facebook Event Page here.</p>	<p>Maine Permaculture Day is back! This is an opportunity to visit local permaculture homesteads, farms, forest gardens or agroforestry installations. There are sites all over the state - some are self-guided, some with tours, and some with activities or workshops during the day. Organizers want to celebrate the evolving work of the permaculture community in Maine, including those working with energy and building systems as well as regenerative agriculture practices like agroforestry, silvopasture, urban food forests, keyline design and more. This is a decentralized and distributed event, with open houses and events offered by volunteers and permaculture practitioners from across the state. Remember that there is no one "version" of permaculture expression and every site is different, both in approach as well as in aesthetics. There is something to learn at every site, especially if you can speak with the host(s) and find out about their permaculture journey.</p>
<p>Evening of Geology</p> 	<p>August 21 5:00-7:00pm Hacker Hill's Preserve 174-238 Quaker Ridge Rd, Casco</p>	<p>Spend an early evening with Maine State Geologist Robert Marvinney to look back in time at the northern Sebago Lake region from a geological standpoint. The land between the west shore of Sebago Lake and the White Mountains offer an interesting story of ancient ocean shorelines, glaciers and multiple ice ages. Hacker's Hill provides a terrific vantage point and signs of geological events of the past. Meet at 5:00 PM at Hacker's Hill parking area. Please park in the "Event Parking" area to the right of the summit. Feel free to bring a picnic and stay for the sunset! (Sunset will be around 7:35 PM). Visit the Loon Echo Land Trust's event page for more information and for more events!</p>
<p>MaineBiz Executive Insights Forum</p> 	<p>August 22 7:30-11:00am Hilton Garden Inn</p>	<p>At this forum, you will learn how to brand, market and sell your products. For small business start-ups, it's essential to have more than a good idea. Often the sales and marketing strategy gets overlooked until it's too late. Learn how to brand and sell from key experts and discover best practices you can put to use today. To register, and for more information, follow this link.</p>

Energy News

School Board Approves Next Steps for Solar Farm—a solar farm may be arriving at Camden Hills Regional High School by the end of the year. According to Superintendent Maria Libby, at a July 29 meeting, the Five Town CSD School Board voted to authorize the superintendent to enter into a Power Purchase Agreement with Aligned Climate Capital and to lease land to ReVision Energy for the purpose of building a solar farm at Camden Hills. According to the summary, “savings to the District on its entire electricity load is conservatively estimated at \$60,000 per year.” [To read the full story, follow this link.](#)

Yarmouth Explores Municipal Solar Energy Project—the new Renewable Energy and Sustainability Committee is studying the feasibility of bringing solar energy to town. The concept has received an initial review by the Town Council, which will then discuss the proposal in depth at its August 5 Operations Meeting. In the initial presentation to the council in June, David Ertz, a member of the committee, said the energy consumption needs of the town and schools could be met with an array that provides about 1.9 million kilowatt hours of solar power per year. Such a facility would require a site of 6-8 acres and encompass more than 3,000 solar panels, according to Ertz. Proposed sites include the town’s capped landfill or the 75-acre Frank Night Forest, both off East Main Street; a spot on Sligo Road that’s adjacent to a Central Maine Power Co. pole yard; and municipal land off Grist Mill Lane. Ertz told councilors issues with these sites include the acreage available, current zoning rules and, in some cases, the parcel being in a flood zone. [Follow this link to read more.](#)

Maine Voices: Transmission Deficit is Holding Back Wind in Maine—five large onshore wind projects have been canceled because there was no way for customers to get the power. Governor Mills recently announced the creation of the Maine Offshore Wind Initiative, which aims to develop renewable energy in the Gulf of Maine. The program focuses on job creation, port infrastructure, and the supply chain that this new industry will require. Governor Mills also simultaneously approved Aqua Ventus, the first floating wind power demonstration project in the U.S. However, as Maine has discovered since 2008, planning energy projects is the easy part. The difficult part is building transmission infrastructure and reshaping the state’s energy system to deliver new renewable energy to customers in a cost-effective way. Maine’s onshore wind efforts over the last decade provide a cautionary tale as officials look to the ocean for a fresh renewable energy source. [Read more here.](#)

CMP Seeks 10 Percent Rate Hike Amid Billing Scrutiny—Central Maine Power is asking the state for permission to hike electricity distribution rates for its residential customers by more than 10 percent. The proposal comes as the utility continues to face scrutiny over billing problems, and some critics also have concerns about the request. CMP announced its proposed rates earlier this week in a letter to customers. CMP spokesperson Catherine Hartnett says the \$46.5 million increase would help cover past expenses, as well as add more workers for duties such as clearing trees and being more responsive during storms. The public hearings will be held later this month in Hallowell, Portland and Farmington. It’s expected that state regulators won’t make a decision on CMP’s new rates until October. [For the full story, click here.](#)

Global \$1.28Bn Electric Vehicle Battery Reuse (Second Life) & Recycling Market 2019-2025—The global electric vehicle reuse and recycling market stands at \$61.5 million as of 2018 and is expected to reach \$7,809.1 million by 2025. To read more, [follow this link.](#)

Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

Planes, Trains, Automobiles (or bus): What’s the Most Eco-Friendly Way to get to Boston?

CapeAir recently announced a flight from Portland to Boston, but what’s the carbon footprint? And, better yet, what’s the most Eco-friendly way to get to Boston? [Follow this link to watch the video.](#) You might be surprised!

Energy Saver 101 Infographic: Home Cooling.

[Follow this link for the Department of Energy's Energy Saver 101 Infographic: Home Cooling](#)



Check out Efficiency Maine's Energy and Money Saving Tips at [this link](#) and while you're there, make sure you look at the rebate programs for the new fiscal year.

Did you know...

... that the electric vehicle market reached over \$1.6 million in sales and 2018 with more than 165 models available for sale?

...that close to 20 million electric vehicles are expected to be sold across the world by 2025?

...that in 2018, the global electric vehicle battery recycling market generated \$10.26 million in revenue and is expected to reach \$6,524.20 million by 2025?

... the batteries from lower-range electric vehicles, such as the Chevy Volt and Cadillac ELR, could provide half a day worth of household electricity usage, while batteries from higher-range electric vehicles, such as the Mercedes SLS and the Tesla Model S, could provide a few days of household electricity usage?

...replacing a dirty, clogged, air filter in your air conditioner with a clean one can lower your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5-15%?

...that one way an air conditioner makes us feel cooler is by reducing the amount of moisture in the air?

...that 6% of the average household's energy use goes to space cooling?

..that 2/3 of all U.S. homes have air conditioners?

...that U.S. homeowners collectively spend \$11 billion each year to power their air conditioners?

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.