




Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 5, Issue 8, August, 2017 – Falmouth, Maine

- It’s summer! Are you doing any work around your home while the days are warm, in thought of colder days, months from now?
- 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- August, 2017

Event	Date/Time/Location	Description
Portland Greendrinks 	August 8 5:30pm Visit the Greendrinks website to check out where their August location will be!	Portland Greendrinks is part of the international Greendrinks network—an informal, volunteer-managed social networking group built around a common interest in the natural environment. It occurs on the second Tuesday of each month, starting at 5:30pm. The goal of Greendrinks is pretty simple: good times shared among people working in, or interested in environmental and sustainability issues.
Solar Heat Pump Open House 	August 16 5:30-7:00pm Lysen Residence 26 Taylor Hill Rd., Lewiston	By harvesting our region’s abundant solar resource, Jim Lysen has nearly eliminated his monthly electricity bills with a rooftop solar electric array. Come by the Lysen residence to experience the solar-powered lifestyle. One of ReVision Energy’s solar design professionals will also talk about the reality of the “100% clean energy transition” made possible by combining solar with hyper-efficient heat pumps, battery storage and electric vehicle charging. For more information or to RSVP, contact ReVision at (207)221-6342, or email Brittany at bangelo@revisionenergy.com .
Facts for the Future	August 24 5:00-7:30pm The Lounge at Allagash Brewing Company 81 Industrial Way, Portland	ReVision is also partnering with AMC, the nation’s oldest conservation, recreation, and educational organization for a Happy Hour and presentation on August 24 in Portland. Join them in learning how individuals, businesses, and nonprofits can help transition to a clean energy future. More information can be found at this link .

<p>Life Happens Outside Festival</p> 	<p>August 25-26 Friday—6:00-10:00pm Saturday—9:00am-5:00pm Thompson's Point Site map here.</p>	<p>The Life Happens Outside Festival is designed to celebrate Maine's outdoors and its passionate outdoor community. Fun for all ages, outdoor interests and skill levels. This inaugural event will feature 6 outdoor villages, 40+ vendors, interactive workshops, exhibits, gear demos, food, beer, and live music. All proceeds from this event will be used to further the mission of Teens To Trails by facilitating the creation and ongoing support of Outing Clubs at high schools throughout Maine. For more event information, follow this link.</p>
<p>Farm to Fork Fondo</p> 	<p>August 26-27 Wolfe's Neck Farm 184 Burnett Rd., Freeport</p>	<p>What's a Farm to Fork Fondo? It's an organized bicycle ride where you get to choose the distance best for you and stop for chef-prepared bites at farms along the way. The mission of this series is to highlight and support the symbiotic relationship between cyclists, farmers, and beautiful landscapes. Come taste the bounty of both the land and the sea as your ride through Maine—where forest meets shore in rocky coastlines that echo the rugged determination of the farming community. For more information, visit their site here.</p>
<p>How to Grow Healthy, Organic Pesticide-Free Lawns</p> 	<p>August 31 6:30-9:00pm South Portland High School 637 Highland Ave., South Portland</p>	<p>Bring your questions and come learn the essentials of organic lawn care from the country's experts at this free workshop. Chip Osborne, head of Osborne Organics, started his career using conventional land care techniques and pesticides before switching to organic and becoming the leading national consultant on organic land and turf care. He has worked with municipalities, schools and private property owners across the country to transition their land to organic care. He has trained many Maine lawn & garden professionals and is working with local municipalities, including South Portland, on transitioning to organic. Jay Feldman, director of Washington, D.C.-based Beyond Pesticides, has served on the National Organic Standards Board and is a leading expert on pesticide risks and public policy solutions to reduce pesticide use and exposure. Follow this link for more information.</p>

Energy News

These Young Entrepreneurs See Opportunity Flowing Though Maine's Decaying Dams—Maine is home to hundreds of dams that have fallen out of use and can be a liability for owners and municipalities, who have to maintain them or pay for their removal. But a couple of 20-something entrepreneurs see potential in old dams in the form of renewable energy and profit. [Follow this link to read more.](#)

Debate Brews over Biomass Bailout's Impact on Maine's Environment— Maine taxpayers' support of wood-to-energy facilities around the state has been called both a waste and a lifeline to rural forest economies. [Click here for the full story.](#)

Fiberight Plant Set to Open in April, but Biofuel Processing Could Lag Until June—The Maryland-based company is reaching financial close, but a portion of the trash stream will be shipped to a landfill before the biofuels processor is completed. The Fiberight plant, which will separate recyclables and organic waste, converting the organics into biofuels such as biomethane, is projected to open in April 2018, according to a schedule it submitted to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. But until its biofuels processor is built and complete, a portion of the trash it receives will be shipped to a landfill in Norridgewock. Read the full story, [here.](#)

South Portland Starts Construction on a Nearly 3,000-Panel Solar Farm—The 1.2-megawatt array is expected to be Maine's largest municipally owned solar project when it is completed in September. The solar array is expected to generate 1.2 million kilowatt-hours of energy per year, or roughly 12 percent of the electricity used by South Portland's municipal and school buildings.

CMP Wants to Build 145-mile Transmission Line Through Western Maine—It would carry hydropower from Quebec to Massachusetts under a plan that's competing with other New England states for developing clean-energy projects. The project cost is confidential, but CMP has confirmed that it's in the \$1billion range. For more on this story, [follow this link.](#)

In Other News...

Coastal Communities Challenge FEMA—Communities along the coast are disputing newly revised Flood Insurance Rate maps by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Flood Insurance Maps show flood hazard area levels in communities and detail classifications such as high hazard, moderate hazard and low hazard. When a new map is put into effect, a property's flood hazard status, as well as their building or insurance requirements, may change. For the full article, [click here.](#)

Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

Here are 10 sample ways to save energy and money at home during the summertime (Sourced from *Pacific Power*)

1. Set your air conditioner thermostat as high as comfortable – we recommend 78°F or higher when you're away from home. Use a smart thermostat to automatically adjust the temperature.
2. Have your central air conditioner tuned up and clean or replace filters monthly for more efficient operation.
3. Keep the blinds and windows closed during the day and open at night. This is a no-cost way to keep your home a little cooler.
4. Window, ceiling and whole-house fans are also low-cost ways to stay comfortable.

5. Minimize indoor heat: run the dryer and dishwasher at night on hot days and let your dishes air dry. Avoid heat-generating incandescent lighting and use a microwave, toaster oven or outdoor grill instead of the oven. It's best to avoid the use of major appliances between 2 and 8 p.m.
6. Set your water heater to 120°F.
7. Wash clothes in cold water and clean the lint filter in the dryer after every use. Hang clothes on the line!
8. Unplug appliances and electronics when not in use. Plug home electronics, such as TVs, DVD players and computers into power strips and turn off the power strips when the equipment is not in use.
9. Eliminate, or deactivate, extra freezers or refrigerators if you can, especially if they spend the summer outdoors or in a garage.
10. If you have a pool: consider slowly reducing pool filtration time by 30 minute increments daily. Keep on reducing the time as long as the water appears clean. You may find you only need to run your pool filter six hours a day. Install a timer to control the length of time that the pool pump cycles on.

Did you know...?

...there is still time to sign up for Falmouth's **WindowDressers Program?**
The absolute deadline to measure is AUGUST 13.

Here is how to take advantage of these custom window insets:

1. Sign up today at www.windowdressers.org
2. Get your windows measured this summer (deadline is approaching!)
3. Participate in the community build in September
4. Save on heating expenses next heating season with new custom made window inserts



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... Falmouth has a **compost/food scrap drop-off program at the Transfer Station?** We are contracted with WeCompostIt! which takes all organics, including meats, bones and dairy! For participating, residents can take compost, too! More information can be found on the town's Public Works website. Follow [this link](#) for the program flier.

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.