







Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 7, Issue 9, September 2019 – Falmouth, Maine

- 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—September 2019

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date/Time/Location</i>	<i>Description</i>
<p>Falmouth, Cumberland and Yarmouth’s 2nd Annual Drive Electric Event</p> 	<p>September 14 12:00-3:00pm TideSmart Global 380 US-1, Falmouth</p>	<p>This year, National Drive Electric Week is set for September 14th through 22nd with more than 200 events across the US, Canada and more. Check out the latest technology, kick the tires, and connect with your local community of EV drivers. Join us for our second annual National Drive Electric Event on Saturday, September 14! There will be local dealers offering test drives and showcasing their fully electric and plug-in electric vehicles. We’ll be also partnering with the Efficiency Maine Trust to promote their FY2020 electric vehicle and charging station rebates. We look forward to another successful Drive Electric Event!</p>
<p>Speaker Series: Untrammelled—The Case for Wild Nature in a Changing World</p> 	<p>September 17 (Session 1) 7:00-8:30pm Maine Audubon 20 Gilsland Farm Rd., Falmouth</p> 	<p>Conserving land as “Forever Wild” is increasingly important as many organizations focus on lands’ uses. Northeast Wilderness Trust and other organizations are doing this work in Maine. Conservation leaders Tom Butler and Mark Anderson will make a lively presentation addressing the science and spirit of forever-wild conservation with a question and answer session to follow. This event is co-sponsored by the Northeast Wilderness Trust. For more event information and to register, click here.</p>
<p>Falmouth Land Trust Farm Fest</p> 	<p>September 19 5:00-8:30pm Hurricane Valley Farm, Falmouth</p>	<p>Falmouth Land Trust is hosting its annual celebration of conservation and open space in Falmouth. Enjoy an evening of wine, beer and local food, and invite your friends to join you at Hurricane Valley Farm, complete with a beautiful sunset, twinkling stars, a rising moon, and a bright bonfire. There will be music, food, farm tours and children’s activities from 5:00-6:30pm. Tickets are \$40 advance, \$50 at the door, and children under 12 are free. Click here to purchase tickets.</p>

<p>Sea Level Rise: Who Pays and How?</p> 	<p>September 27 9:30am-4:30pm United Farmers Market of Maine 18 Spring St., Belfast</p>	<p>Many Maine communities have identified climate-related vulnerabilities to their homes, businesses and natural areas, due to the impacts from sea level rise and increases in severe storms. Finding funding for adaptation solutions is often a major barrier to addressing these concerns and moving forward. Join the Island Institute, Maine Coastal program, the New England Environmental Finance Center, Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, and Resilience Works, LCC for a daylong conference that will highlight innovative strategies for funding infrastructure projects to increase a community's resilience. For more event information and to purchase tickets, follow this link.</p>
<p>ecomaine's Annual Recycling Open House</p> 	<p>September 28 8:00am-12:00pm 62 Blueberry Rd., Portland</p>	<p>The annual open house at ecomaine is an opportunity for the public to come learn about everything that happens with their waste. The morning will include tours of ecomaine's facilities; free electronic waste collection; free breakfast sandwiches, fruit and coffee; free 22 gallon recycling bins (while supplies last); fun activities for the kids, including the chance to sit in garbage and recycling trucks AND meet some of Maine's favorite mascots; raffles for great prizes; and a chance to speak with representatives from the Natural Resources Council of Maine and other sustainability groups. Follow this link for more information.</p>

Energy News

State Public Advocate Recommends \$1M Penalty Against Maine Electricity Provider—Public Advocate Barry Hobbins says he is asking the Public Utilities Commission to levy at least a \$1 million fine and to suspend Electricity Maine's license for one year for allegedly engaging in deceptive and fraudulent marketing practices. "One agent promised free service for a year," says Hobbins. "Some agents promised lower rates, despite the fact that Electricity Maine's rates were higher than other available options, including the standard offer." For the full story, [click here](#).

Trees Are Key to Fighting Urban Heat—But Cities Keep Losing Them—Trees can play a huge role in the health of people living in cities, but across the country, cities are losing millions of trees year after year. And many poor urban neighborhoods — often home to a city's most vulnerable — are starting at a disadvantage. "If we show you a map of tree canopy in virtually any city in America, we're also showing you a map of income," says Jad Daley, president and CEO of the nonprofit, American Forests. "And in many cases, we're showing you a map of race and ethnicity." To read more on this story, [follow this link](#).

CMP Powerline Opponents File Petition Language to Force Statewide Vote—Opponents of Central Maine Power's controversial plan to build a new transmission line through Western Maine have quietly submitted language that could lead to a statewide vote on the project. "It appears to basically direct the members of the Public Utilities Commission to declare that this is not in the best interest of the people of Maine," says Maine Secretary of State Matt Dunlap. Dunlap says former Wilton state Sen. Tom Saviello is the lead member of a group of opponents seeking approval to circulate petitions on the question. If after review and possible revision, Dunlap approves the language, the petitioners will need to secure more than 63,000 certified signatures by mid-February to get the question on the ballot in Nov. 2020. Saviello and CMP officials could not immediately be reached for comment.

(Sourced from MainePublicRadio.org)

EPA Aims to Roll Back Limits on Methane Emissions from Oil and Gas Industry—The Trump administration is proposing to slash restrictions on the oil and gas industry for methane emissions, a greenhouse gas that is a powerful driver of climate change. Environmental groups are alarmed. "This would be a huge step backward," said Ben Ratner, a senior director at the Environmental Defense Fund. "It would cause greatly increased pollution and a big missed opportunity to take cost effective immediate action to reduce the rate of warming right now." [Read more here.](#)

In Other News...

Decade-Old Effort to Cut Fishing Gear Waste Expands—A Public-Private partnership aimed at reducing fishing gear waste is expanding after 10 years of operation. On the Portland Fish Pier, a front-end loader smashes old lobster traps and dumps them into a giant dumpster. The demonstration highlights how fisherman can dispose of gear as part of the Fishing for Energy program – a partnership between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, private institutions and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. [Read more here.](#)

Teen Climate Activist Greta Thunberg Arrives in New York After Sailing the Atlantic— Greta Thunberg, a 16-year-old Swedish climate activist, arrived in New York last month aboard a boat rather than a plane to emphasize the need to reduce carbon-emission damage to the planet. On Aug. 20, 2018, Thunberg began skipping school and protesting by herself outside Sweden's parliament. She called it a school strike and demanded that adults do more about climate change. Read more about her fascinating story, [by following this link.](#)

Climate Change is a Remorseless Threat to the World's Coasts—this story, from *The Economist*, highlights the impacts of sea level rise, and what many parts of the world have done, and are planning to do, to mitigate the impacts. [Follow this link to read the full story.](#)

The Interns Teaching Mainers to be Better Recyclers— One person's trash, it has been said, is another person's treasure — except when it comes to recycling. A crash in the global recycling market last year is forcing municipalities in Maine to prevent household trash from contaminating their recycling streams or face hefty fees. The new added cost has led some Maine towns to drop recycling altogether. But a handful of towns in Southern Maine tried a different tactic this summer — by hiring interns to walk through neighborhoods, peek into curbside recycling bins and leave behind direct feedback on the do's and don'ts of recycling. [Follow this link to listen to the Maine Public Radio special!](#)

Green Consumer Tips & How-To's



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.

Start of Fall Check List for an Efficient Home

I have been in my home for one year this past August. Owning a home is amazing, but there is a lot to learn and a lot to get done! Here is the beginning of my Fall to-do list:

1. If you have a home heating system, i.e. a boiler or furnace, schedule a cleaning! I just had my boiler done last week and it pays to be proactive! My boiler is a bit older, a 1998 unit, but is running at 84% efficiency because it's maintained annually.
2. Dust and keep your base boards clean—it really does make a difference when you're not burning off all that dust and dirt once you fire up your heating system (better for your indoor air quality, too).
3. Wash those windows! As it gets cooler, the cleaner the windows, the more heat gain you'll get.
4. Air seal, air seal, air seal! Now that it's getting colder, you'll really start to feel the drafts if you haven't dealt with them over the years. I pulled my washer and dryer out of its closet space which is located on an exterior wall over the summer and was amazed how much base board and caulking work needed to be done.
5. Get a programmable thermostat if you haven't already. You'll notice the savings almost immediately!
6. If you have a green thumb like me, it is canning season! Preserve your home-grown goodness; they make wonderful gifts, too! And please remember, always shop local if you can and bring those reusable bags wherever you go!

Did you know...

... that Falmouth's overall recycling contamination has decreased from a high of 12% down to a low of only 7%?

...that Falmouth's two summer recycling interns educated the Stapleford, Brook Rd, Flats, and Town Landing neighborhoods on the importance of proper recycling?

...that the neighborhoods listed above represent about 15% of Falmouth residents?

...there will be five local car dealers, as well as private citizens, showcasing fully electric vehicles at TideSmart, on September 14, from 12-3pm? **We cannot wait to see you at our second annual Drive Electric Event!**

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.