

Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 3, Issue 4 April 2015 – Falmouth, Maine



- Spring is finally here! Although we’re entering a shoulder season of the heating year, spring is a great time to analyze your home energy and make some improvements.
- Have you had an energy audit or assessment done at your home? If so, how did you prioritize your list of recommendations? We’d love to hear about your home energy story—give us a shout!
- We want to hear from you! Interested? To contribute to the newsletter content please send your suggestions to us at reac@falmouthme.org
- Want to get involved and see how you can make Falmouth more sustainable? REAC meets the first Thursday of each month—come join us and see how you can volunteer and help with some of our efforts. See you then!




REAC News Update!








The Town of Falmouth is leasing an all electric 2015 Nissan LEAF! The Greater Portland Sustainability Council is graciously funding the installation of an electric car charging station at Town Hall. It will be installed by ReVision Energy and available for public use! It is estimated that the addition of an all electric car will reduced the municipality’s carbon footprint by approximately 2,875 pounds of CO2 each year! We’re excited to be adding a LEAF to the municipal vehicle fleet!


Falmouth held the highest recycling rate at ecomaine for February! Of the 237.52 tons of municipal solid waste and recycled material, Falmouth recycled 41.8% of the total collection. Keep it up Falmouth!

Calendar of Local Green Events- April 2015

Event	Date/Time/Location	Description
<p>The Viridescent House— Passive House and Net Positive Gain</p>  <p>U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL MAINE CHAPTER</p>	<p>Wednesday, April 1 7:30-9:30am Maine Audubon, Education Center 20 Gilsland Farm Rd, Falmouth</p> 	<p>In 2014 TideSmart Global completed construction of the first net-positive building in Maine. The Viridescent House is a Certified Passive House—a rigorous, voluntary international standard for energy efficiency in buildings. There are several net-zero buildings currently in Maine. This house will actually produce <i>twice the amount of energy</i> needed to sustain itself - <i>and is therefore net positive!</i> Come learn more at the Maine Audubon!</p>

<p>Sierra Club Maine Activist Lobby Day in Augusta</p> 	<p>Thursday, April 2 9:00-11:00 am Welcome Center, Maine State House 83 State House Station, Augusta</p>	<p>Join the Sierra Club's Maine Chapter at the Welcome Center at the State house on April 2nd where you'll have a chance to hear from legislators sponsoring key pro-environment bills. You'll also have the opportunity to pay a visit to your local Representatives. Come out and show your support!</p>
<p>Maine State Chamber of Commerce—Energy Summit</p> 	<p>Friday, April 3 8:00 am-12:00 pm Bangor Savings Bank 5 Senator Way, Augusta</p>	<p>The Annual Maine State Chamber of Commerce Energy Summit is being held in Augusta on April 3rd. The rising cost of energy is a major topic of concern to Maine businesses.</p> <p>In-depth presentations of energy issues currently being debating by the Maine Legislature will be discussed. The cost of energy impacts every business and our economy—you won't want to miss this informative event! Follow this link to register.</p>
<p>Sierra Club—Maine Chapter Outings: Free Leadership Training</p>	<p>Saturday, April 11 12:30 - 5:00 pm Curtis Memorial Library 23 Pleasant St, Brunswick</p>	<p>Become a Sierra Club Maine Outings Leader—<i>for free!</i> Outing Leadership basic training is being held on April 11th. Take Sierra Club members on hikes around Maine for this great experience. To learn more about this fun training event, contact Bill Briggs at wdbriggs10@gmail.com or give him a call at (207)239-8208.</p>
<p>Solar for the Homeowner— Solarize Sacopee</p> 	<p>Saturday, April 11 11:00 am-1:00 pm Standish Congregational Church 25 Oak Hill Rd, Standish</p>	<p>Learn about how you can reduce energy costs and carbon emissions through the Solarize Sacopee Program. Get answers to questions such as—how much do these systems cost? What can I expect for my return on investment? What are the available incentives for solar energy systems and how do they perform in our northeast climate?</p> <p>For more information call ReVision at (207)221-6342.</p>

<p>Global Cut-a-Thon, Camden</p> 	<p>Monday, April 13 10:00 am-6:00 pm Green With Envy Salon 25 Mechanic St, Camden</p> 	<p>Help celebrate Aveda EarthMonth at Green With Envy Salon for a haircut to benefit the Natural Resources Council of Maine's work. Your donation will help keep Maine's lakes, rivers and coastline clean and beautiful. <i>100% of the event's proceeds will go to protecting clean water in Maine.</i></p>
<p>Northeast Biomass Heating Expo</p> 	<p>Thursday-Saturday, April 16-18 Schedule Cross Insurance Arena 1 Civic Center Square, Portland</p>	<p>The 7th annual Northeast Biomass Heating Expo will unite a diverse audience from the biomass fuel, supply chain, developer, manufacturer, and government sectors to break barriers and ground for biomass and thermal and combined heat and power (CHP) systems. There will be panel discussions, technical workshops and interactive programs - don't miss out!</p>
<p>Children's Museum & Theatre of Maine—Earth Day</p> 	<p>Wednesday, April 22 10:00 am-5:00 pm Children's Museum & Theater of Maine 142 Free St, Portland</p>	<p>Celebrate Earth Day with your children and family members at the Children's Museum & Theatre of Maine. There will be earth-friendly activities including seeds to plant, mud to play with, all kinds of natural materials to make art with, and much more!</p>
<p>Maine Audubon—Speaker Series: Earth Day Film Festival</p> 	<p>Wednesday, April 22 6:00-9:00 pm Maine Audubon 20 Gilsland Farm Rd, Falmouth</p> 	<p>Join Maine Audubon and the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) for a special Earth Day screening of the Maine Outdoor Film Festival. Maine Audubon and AMC members will receive a discounted entrance fee. Join them for a fun evening of food, drink and conservation films—follow this link for a list of films.</p>
<p>Urban Runoff 5K & Green Neighborhood Family Fest</p> 	<p>Saturday, April 25 9:30 am-1:30 pm Deering High School 370 Stevens Ave, Portland</p>	<p>The Urban Runoff 5K will lead into the Green Neighborhood Family Fest, where families and community members will be able to take part in hands-on activities about water. Come learn how to become a green neighbor and have an all-around good time doing so!</p>

<p>22nd Annual Maine Recycling & Solid Waste Conference & Trade Show</p> 	<p>Friday & Saturday, April 27 & 28 Point Lookout Resort 67 Atlantic Hwy, Northport</p>	<p>This integrated conference attracts leaders and decision makers from: recycling centers, transfer stations, landfills and incinerators; state, city and town governments; as well as business and industry. Come learn about the latest developments in the solid waste and sustainable material management fields. For a detailed event brochure, click here.</p>
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Energy News

Public Utilities Commission Cuts Efficiency Maine Budget by over 60% on March 17th, 2015, the Maine Public Utilities Commission voted 2-1 in favor of cutting the budget for Efficiency Maine’s programs from approximately \$60 million to roughly \$22 million per year. Commissioners Mark Vannoy and Carlisle McLean, both LePage appointees cast the 2 deciding votes to cut the budget. Michael Stoddard, Executive Director of Efficiency Maine, said of the cuts, “we would stop having heating programs or programs to save peoples’ heating levels through weatherization and high-efficiency heating systems, plus we still wouldn’t have enough to reach our electricity-saving obligations”. Environmental groups plan to appeal the decision.

Fixing a \$36 Million Typo in Energy Bill Not So Simple at issue is a 2013 law that allows the Maine Public Utilities Commission to set the budget for Efficiency Maine, along with a typo in a recent bill. “A missing ‘and’ ...is [determining] whether funding for Efficiency Maine will increase by \$59 million with the ‘and’ or by \$23 without it. Either way, the increase would be funded by a surcharge on electric ratepayers”.

Wind Power Jobs Predicted to Grow on January 6th, 2015, the Maine Center for Business & Economic Research at USM released a report commissioned by the Maine Renewable Energy Association, which projected that the wind power industry will produce 4,200 jobs in 2015. The industry’s power output is poised to double over the next four years to 1,300 megawatts. The report also projects that total spending in Maine on wind power (excluding imported equipment) will total to \$1.28 billion by 2018. Following [this link](#) to download and read the full report.

Study: Clean Energy to be \$1.9B industry in Maine by 2023 Pew, a nonprofit which aims to shape public policy through research in the areas of the environment, economic policy and health recently released a report which predicts that sustainable energy industries will continue to grow in Maine, estimating \$1.9 billion in private investments by 2023. Read the full article [here](#).

Green Consumer Tips and How-To's

Here are a few things to help you with your spring cleaning—while being sustainable*:

1. Clear the Clutter! Consider the growing arsenal of ways to find a home for unwanted items before sending them to the trash. Identify the stuff that you never use (or haven't for 12-18 months), have duplicates of, or have outgrown. Donate items to thrift stores - make sure to get a receipt to use at tax time. Some local outlets are: Goodwill Industries, Salvation Army, ReStore, and Falmouth's Transfer Station. Throwing useable items away or placing them in the garage should be your last resort - as they say, "one man's trash, is another man's treasure!" Reuse! Sell! Giveaway! Donate! Recycle! Organize a neighborhood yard sale!
2. Clean inside and out using green, non-toxic cleaners and reusable wipes. Check out [Earth Easy](#) or [Good House Keeping](#) for homemade, all-natural cleaning recipes.
3. Using paper towels may be easy and convenient, however they cannot be recycled. Think instead about using rags, old/unmatched socks, or cut up cotton clothing that no longer fits instead. Just toss them in the wash and reuse! If you do use the occasional paper towel—be sure to compost them!
4. Reorganize with green storage solutions. Try cardboard boxes made out of recycled materials or cloth bags before stocking up on plastic bins. Use eco-friendly/non-toxic shelving to free up floor space.
5. Plan ahead to minimize next year's spring cleaning. Take advantage of the seasons to pare down your collection of stuff—think green/recycled throughout all areas of life—from your office to your wardrobe, to your home electronics. It will put you ahead of the game next spring.

*Sustainability is important to making sure that we have and will continue to have the water, materials, and resources to protect human health and our environment.

Did you know...?

...that the state of Maine has a higher solar potential than the world's leader in renewable energy, Germany?

...that more people are employed nationally with the solar industry than with the coal industry?

...that solar panels today are about half the price of what they were in 2008?

...that Americans throw out over 250,000,000 plastic bottles *every hour*? We all need fresh water to drink each day, but we can reduce wasted plastic dramatically simply by carrying a reusable water bottle.

...that aluminum cans be recycled indefinitely? This is because aluminum does not break down during the melting and remolding process. In fact, a recycled can is generally turned into a new can and back on store shelves within just 60 days!

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.