




Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)



"Energy News You Can Use" Volume 3, Issue 8 August 2015 – Falmouth, Maine

- Summer is here in full force! How are keeping your home cool, before having to turn on the air conditioner?
- What are your home energy plans for the warm days, while keeping the cold in mind?
- Have you had an energy audit or assessment done through Efficiency Maine or independently? Drop us a line at reac@falmouthme.org and share your home energy story with us!
- 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
- How do you keep the waste down while hosting a get-together or party? We'd love to hear your tips!

Calendar of Local Green Events- August 2015

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date/Time/Location</i>	<i>Description</i>
Lean Startup—Move Your Idea to Action! 	August 6 2:00-5:00pm SCORE Office 100 Middle St., East Tower 2 nd floor, Portland	Do you have a business idea, are wondering how to test your idea, but not sure if your idea has legs? If so, this workshop is for you! The objective of this workshop is to help begin laying out the parameters of a sustainable, ideal and scalable business using different principles and models. This event is free! To learn more and to register, click here .
NH Innovation Night: Focus on New Hampshire's Clean Energy Future 	August 6 6:00-8:30pm Alpha Loft 844 Elm St., Manchester, NH	Join employees from ReVision's New Hampshire branch at the New Hampshire Innovation Nights. The event is in partnerships with Environment New Hampshire, and will consist of an evening of networking, discussions and entrepreneur presentations focused exclusively on how we can lead as a state and country on climate by cutting global warming pollution. For more information, follow this link .
Intro to Permaculture for Educators: a Professional Development Training 	August 6—3:00-7:00pm August 7—9:00am-5:00pm August 8—9:00am-3:30pm Merriconeag Waldorf School 57 Desert Rd., Freeport	Please join facilitators for this 2 ½ day training aimed at designing rich multi-functional ecology-based educational experiences. This program will provide you with a systems-based approach for developing lessons embedded in a community; attention will be focused on landscape as well as social ecology. This training will use a combination of image-rich slideshows, participatory exercises, a couple of short video clips, and several hands-on outdoor activities. For more information, visit this site .

<p>Funding Opportunities for Your Business</p> 	<p>August 13 6:00-9:00pm SCORE Office 100 Middle St., East Tower 2nd floor, Portland</p>	<p>Whether you are starting a new business or expanding an existing one, finding the necessary financing and capital can be challenging. This workshop will provide important information on the potential sources of financing. It will explore different avenues of financing such as grants and loans. This is a free workshop which requires preregistration, and space is limited!</p>
<p>Demand Response Study and Emerging Issues Meeting—Efficiency Maine</p> 	<p>August 13 9:00-11:00am Efficiency Maine Offices 168 Capitol St., Augusta</p>	<p>The Efficiency Maine Trust will host a meeting in mid-August to define the scope of the Demand Response study as required by LD357. The meeting will also aim to explore areas of focus of the Trust's demand response-related activities in the third Triennial Plan (FY17-FY19). In addition, they will be seeking input on other emerging priorities such as the Trust's use of potential smart meter pilots, interval data and innovation pilots. RSVP Katye Charette at Katye.charette@efficiencymaine.com or call (207) 213-4160.</p>
<p>Backyard Citizen Science Workshop</p> 	<p>August 15 11:00am-2:00pm Fields Pond, Greater Bangor 216 Fields Pond Rd., Holden</p>	<p>From birds to plants, insects to amphibians, there are all sorts of interesting things to observe in your backyard, and scientists want to know about it! Here is your opportunity to learn about some of the citizen science projects going on both locally and globally, that you can be a part of. This program will include time both indoors and outdoors; first learning about the different citizen science projects and then practicing how to collect data for them.</p>
<p>Portland Local Food Networking Breakfast</p> 	<p>August 18 8:30am Local Sprouts Café 649 Congress St., Portland</p>	<p>All are welcome for breakfast and talk of local food! Casual breakfast will be served with food organizers—advocates and producers of the community. All the food served is cooked with only local ingredients. Networking is encouraged! Come out and promote your work and organizations to your peers, and eat some great local food.</p>

<p>Hike Barnard Mountain on Proposed National Park Land</p> 	<p>August 29 11:00am Trailhead—mile marker 12 Directions here.</p>	<p>Join NRCM for a fun hike up Barnard Mountain, located on the land proposed to be our next national park. This hike will cover approximately four miles roundtrip and is appropriate for hikers of all abilities. Hikers will venture along a portion of the International Appalachian Trail, over Katahdin Brook, to the top of Barnard Mountain—where they will be treated to spectacular views of Mt. Katahdin, Katahdin Lake, and the Traveler Mountains. To RSVP for this hike, and for more information, click here.</p>
<p>Farm-to-Table Dinners in Freeport</p> 	<p>August 30 5:00-8:00pm Wolfe's Neck Farm 184 Burnett Rd., Freeport</p>	<p>Wolfe's Neck Farm of Freeport partners with local farms and restaurants for these unique events, designed to support the efforts to expand the availability of fresh, local, and sustainability-grown food in Maine. Events such as these support their Teen Ag Program—which educates the next generation of farmers; whom have donated over 12,000 pounds of fresh produce to local food banks over the last three years! For more detailed information, visit the Farm's website by following this link.</p>

Energy News

Energy Subsidies are Projected at US \$5.3 Trillion in 2015, or 6.5% of Global GDP—According to a recent International Monetary Fund (IMF) study, much of this arises from countries setting energy taxes below levels that fully reflect the environmental damage associated with energy consumptions. Energy subsidies sizeable worldwide are projected to stay high—China is the top subsidizer in dollar terms, Ukraine in percent of GDP, and Qatar in per capita terms. Energy subsidies are dramatically higher than previously thought, which is partly due to factoring in new World Health Organization estimates on harm to health and pollution exposure. For the full report, follow [this link.](#)

Grid-connected Wind Generation Capacity in EU Meets Eight Percent of European Electricity Demand—Wind generation in the EU reached 129GW in 2014. The European Commission's in-house science service say the industry's "impressive growth" will allow it to supply at least 12% of electricity by 2020.

Mass. Senate has started a Battle against Climate Change—The state of Massachusetts has made it its goal to produce solar energy amounting to 1,600 megawatts by the year 2020. To do this, the state Senate has voted to raise the maximum number of solar power permitted to be resold by consumers to the main grid. This is part of the larger bill, called Climate Change Preparedness Bill—which will prompt research in the field as to better prepare the state for some expected consequences of the damage to the environment. These include floods, droughts, and unusual temperature fluctuations.

Solarize Brunswick Gains Power—The Town Council moved ahead on its plan to help make solar power affordable with Solarize Brunswick. This will allow residents to buy into solar at a reduced bulk price either as single residences or co-opping into a solar farm. The next step in the process is a request for proposals. In the next week, Development Manager Linda Smith said some 30 installers in the Brunswick area will be invited to bid.

Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

- ❖ Sunburned? Reach for an Aloe Vera plant instead of an over-the-counter sunburn remedy that may contain ingredients that can make symptoms worse. Break off a piece of the aloe, peel it open, and spread the gel directly onto the sunburned area.
- ❖ If your lawnmower was made before 1999, trade it in for a newer, cleaner model. Before 1999, lawnmower engines were unregulated by the EPA, so running a pre-1999 mower for one hour generates as much air pollution as running a car for two days!
- ❖ Do you have some poison ivy around your property, and want to see it gone? Mix three pounds of salt with soapy water and spray onto poison ivy plants for a toxic-free solution to this troublesome plant.
- ❖ Having a problem with ants in your home? Soak cotton balls in a mixture of 1 cup water, 1/3 cup sugar and 1 ½ teaspoons of boric acid. Leave the cotton balls in areas inaccessible to children and pets, (such as under the refrigerator) and that will take care of the ants!

Did you know ...?

...that Burlington, Vermont is the first city in the U.S. to source 100% of its power from safe, reliable and affordable renewable generation? Burlington Electric Department owns and operates several local renewable energy facilities and also purchases renewable energy through different contracts.

...that Vermont and Hawaii have the highest Renewable Portfolio Standards (RES) in the country? Vermont's new standard, also known as the Renewable Energy Standard and Energy Transformation (RESET) has an interim goal of 55% by 2017 and also includes provisions for cutting emissions in the residential and transportation sectors. Hawaii recently updated legislation by setting a 100% RPS by 2045. Vermont's RPS passed a bill creating a 75% RPS by 2030.

....that petroleum, natural gas, and coal have made up at least 80% of total U.S. energy consumption for more than 100 years? Renewable energy is a small but a growing piece of the U.S. energy mix. The greatest growth in renewables today is in solar and wind power industries; followed by geothermal and biomass.

...that under Maine State Law, the Public Utilities Commission must provide *Standard Offer Disclosure Labels*? These labels contain generation resources and emission information that can be used to compare supply offers. Follow [this link](#) for information of the mix of power sources for Maine customers and the emissions associated with each fuel in the mix.

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.