

## Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)



“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 3, Issue 5 May 2015 – Falmouth, Maine





- Spring is here! Finally!
- What are your home energy plans to wrap up this winter and prepare for warmer days ahead?
- Have you had an energy audit or assessment done through Efficiency Maine or independently? Drop us a line at [reac@falmouthme.org](mailto: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 us a shout!





### **May 8th and 15<sup>th</sup>—Spring Leaf Bag Collection!**

Be sure to place bags out at the curb by 7:00am. Leaf bags are available at the Public Works facility at 101 Woods Road. Leaf Bags are available in quantities of 15 per residents (while supplies last). **NOTICE:** There will be no brush collection. However, brush is accepted at the Transfer Station.

### Calendar of Local Green Events- May 2015

Event	Date/Time/Location	Description
<p><b>Portland Home Energy Fair</b></p> 	<p>May 2 10:00am-3:00pm Ocean Avenue Elementary School 150 Ocean Ave, Portland</p>	<p>Still feeling the brunt of this past winter as you receive the last of your heating bills? Looking to save some money on those costs, while reducing your impact on the environment? If so, come check out the Portland Home Energy Fair! The last event of this year’s series of fairs will be held in Portland at the Ocean Avenue Elementary School. Come connect with heating professionals and other experts in the field who will answer all your home energy questions. This event is free! There will be door prizes and children’s activities offered, so bring the whole family!</p>
<p><b>Maine Preservation’s Old House Forum and Annual Meeting</b></p> 	<p>May 2 9:00am-2:30pm Governor Hill Mansion 136 State St, Augusta</p>	<p>Do you have an old home, which you know isn’t the most efficient, and you want to do some improvements, but don’t know where to start? This Old House Forum is just for you if you answered yes! In Augusta, you will learn about energy efficiency for your historic house, how and why architectural styles evolve in Maine, and everything you need to know about roofing. For more details and to register, <a href="#">click here</a>.</p>

<p><b>Coastal Home &amp; Garden Show</b></p> 	<p>May 2-3 10:00am-4:00pm The Kittery Community Center 120 Rogers Road, Kittery</p>	<p>The Coastal Home &amp; Garden Show is the perfect place to find the best in convenience and savings. Great home building, remodeling, landscaping exhibits and ideas for your home will be displayed. For more information on tickets and vendors <a href="#">click here</a>.</p>
<p><b>Film Screening: "Growing Local"</b></p>  <p><i>For more information on this film, follow <a href="#">this link</a>.</i></p>	<p>May 3 6:30pm Belfast Free Library 106 High St, Belfast</p>	<p>The locavore movement is old news. <i>Growing Local</i> takes the conversation to the next level. While "buying local" is on the rise, these three poignant vignettes make clear that small farms and access to locally produced food is not a sure thing. This film explores the growing pains of the local food movement and the uncertain fate of the farmers and farmland that keep it alive. These poignant stories help us understand the interconnected fates of Maine's small farms, consumers and the local food movement.</p>
<p><b>Film Screening: "Plastic China"</b> and Discussion with Wang Jiuliang and Shu-Chin Tsui</p> 	<p>May 4 7:00-9:00pm Sills Hall, Smith Auditorium Bowdoin College 255 Main St, Brunswick</p>	<p>The waste that we produce each day gets tossed away and quickly disappears out of view...but where does it go? <i>Plastic China</i> is a story about how plastic waste from all around the world ends up in China. Because of this plastic waste, water is no longer clean, air is no longer fresh and <b>food</b> is no longer safe in many areas of the vast country. A discussion will proceed the film showing lead by the filmmakers and Bowdoin's professor of Asian Studies and Cinema Studies amongst others.</p> <p><i>REAC members will be attending this film screening—we'll see you there!</i></p>
<p><b>Maine Solar Valuation Study: What it Means for Renewable Energy in Maine</b></p> 	<p>May 6 7:30-9:30am Maine Audubon Education Center 20 Gilsland Farm Rd, Falmouth</p>	<p>The Maine Public Utilities Commission has recently released a study that gives a quantitative value for solar power produced in Maine. The study was in response to legislation passed last year and focused on distributed solar. The study calculates the monetary value of the benefits of solar installation and has determined that solar energy produced in Maine is valued at 33 cents per kWh. Come hear from ReVision Energy Principal Fortunat Mueller as to the metrics went into the study, and what the outcome means for Maine.</p>

<p><b>Maine School Garden Day</b></p> 	<p>May 9 8:00am-3:30pm Sanford Regional Technical Center 52 Sanford High School Blvd, Sanford</p>	<p>The Maine School Garden Day is designed for Maine prekindergarten-12 educators and enthusiasts who want to start or continue a school garden. Topics include: saving seeds, cooking with youth, managing a school orchard and garden management tools. A panel discussion with school-based gardeners will be held and participants may tour the garden on site, which uses high-tunnel and aquaponics technology. For more information, follow <a href="#">this link</a>.</p>
<p><b>Portland—Local Food Networking Breakfast</b></p> 	<p>May 19 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 held with the food organizers, advocates and producers of the community. The food being served will be cooked with <i>all local</i> ingredients. This event is a great chance to promote your work and organizations to your peers, and networking is encouraged!</p>
<p><b>Wolfe's Neck Farm Plant Sale</b></p>  <p><b>Spring Festival on the Farm!</b></p>	<p>May 23 9:00am-1:00pm Wolfe's Neck Farm 184 Burnett Rd, Freeport</p> <p>May 30<sup>th</sup> 10:00am-3:00pm Wolfe's Neck Farm, Freeport</p>	<p>Rain or shine, the Annual Wolfe's Neck Plant Sale will be held on Saturday May 23<sup>rd</sup>. A great selection of perennials, annuals herbs and seedlings will be available and local Master Gardeners will be present to answer questions. All plants are donated by volunteers, friends and neighbors; are locally grown and do well in this environment. For more information, <a href="#">click here</a>.</p> <p>Come celebrate Spring at the Farm! This fun filled day includes: activities, music, food, face painting, hayrides, demonstrations and much more! <i>Proceeds benefit Wolfe's Neck Farm educational programming.</i></p> <p><a href="#">Follow this link</a> for more information.</p>
<p><b>Coastal Botanical Garden "Maine Days"</b></p> 	<p>May 23-25 <i>Open daily</i> 9:00am-5:00pm 132 Botanical Gardens Dr, Boothbay</p>	<p>Come explore the 270-acre landscape at Coastal Botanical Gardens in Boothbay. Their gardens, trails, and wild spaces are uniquely beautiful and always full of surprises throughout the year. For more information and detailed maps, <a href="#">click here</a>.</p>

## Energy News

**New England Governors Pledge Energy Cooperation**—New England governors pledge continued cooperation on what they all agree is a region-wide energy crisis, but offered no specific solutions after a meeting convened by Connecticut Governor Dannel P. Malloy in Hartford on Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. The six governors, including Maine's Paul LePage, issued a call for proposals to bring hydropower from Quebec and a new natural gas pipeline into New England, through a process that would be coordinated by the New England States Committee on Electricity, back in December 2013. Six months later, the governors had no progress to report on the initiative after emerging from their second energy summit. Currently, the governors are still not sure exactly what kind of action they can take, given different and sometimes conflicting interests among the six states.

**Maine PUC's Solar Power Study Released Shows Enormous Benefits**—by NRCM. The Maine Public Utilities Commission has released a study that gives a quantitative value for solar power produced in Maine. The study found that solar power provides a substantial public benefit and provides evidence that Maine's current energy policies are leaving the state behind, and leading to missed opportunities. The analysis confirms that solar power provides multiple, quantifiable benefits well beyond the basic unit of energy produced from a solar panel. These include: reduced electricity rates, due to displacing more expensive power sources; less air and climate pollution; reduced cost of our electric "grid" system; reduced need to build more power plants to meet peak demand; and more stable prices and greater energy security from a diversified energy supply. Read more [here](#).

## Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

- ❖ **Save Money - start your compost!** Composting is one of the most satisfying types of recycling based on the fact that, unlike that plastic bottle you send to the recycling plant, you can watch this recycling process every step of the way. In addition, the waste reduction impact can be enormous! Follow [this link](#) on how to get started and what to compost.
- ❖ **Plant the garden you've always wanted!** It may seem like a lot of work, but the outcome will yield more than just fresh produce. You can reduce environmental damage caused by traditional farming methods using large tractors and toxic chemicals. Interested in organic gardening? Then follow [this link](#).
- ❖ **Now that it's grilling season,** make sure there is a trade in/refill option when buying a propane tank. Most retailers will let you bring in an empty tank in exchange for a decent discount on your next tank.

## Did you know ...?

...that the EPA estimates, Americans throw away an average of 1.3 pounds of food scraps *daily*? The combination of this food waste, along with yard trimmings, makes up 24% of our nation's municipal solid waste stream.

\*\*At the middle of the current fiscal year, Falmouth's recycling rate is second-best (behind #1 Pownal) at a rate of 42.2%. For more information, [click here](#). Keep up the high rate everyone!

...that when grilling, propane is a better option in terms of carbon footprint than charcoal? Charcoal uses 998 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>, almost three times more than propane, which is weighted in at 349 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>.

**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.