





## Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 5, Issue 11, November 2017 – Falmouth, Maine

- What do you do as the days begin to cool off, to prepare your home for the colder months to come?
- 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](mailto: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- November 2017

Event	Date/Time/Location	Description
<p><b>Passivhaus Maine Fall Forum: Innovation in Sustainable Construction and District Retrofits</b></p> 	<p>November 2-3 Rines Auditorium Portland Public Library 5 Monument Sq., Portland</p>	<p>phME is proud to present three events as part of the Fall Forum; with a goal to reconsider possibilities in retrofits. Maine's 600,000 existing units desperately need attention as we transition away from fossil fuels and anticipate extreme weather events. Innovation: what's missing in the demand and the solutions now offered? What messaging needs to be done? Is new technology being met with appropriate funding? Are new systems fully understood? Cost impacts demand; what can we do to reduce costs? The evening panel discussion will grapple with these questions. The Forum will feature speakers who have already jumped into district retrofits. Learning from their experiences, what can we take away to inspire, fund and tackle retrofits in our major cities and our rural communities? For more event information, and to register <a href="#">click here</a>.</p>
<p><b>Third Annual E2Tech Expo</b></p> 	<p>November 16 7:00am-6:00pm Abromson Center University of Southern Maine 88 Bedford St., Portland</p>	<p>The third annual E2Tech Expo will be the premier energy and environmental innovation and business event of the year. Investors and funders, policymakers, energy and environmental companies, and other innovation “enablers” are on tap to advise attendees on strategies for Maine’s economic and business development future. <a href="#">Follow this link</a> for the full agenda and registration information.</p>

<p><b>Forum: Growing Farm Friendly Communities</b></p>  	<p>November 16 10:00am-12:00pm Windham Town Hall 8 School St., Windham</p>	<p>This forum—how to create municipal agricultural commissions and other tools to support farms in your town—is cohosted by GrowSmart Maine and Maine Farmland Trust. Hear communities and municipal leaders share policy approaches and practical ideas for ways communities and farmers can benefit from working together. Stephanie Gilbert, Farm Viability &amp; Farmland Protection Specialist with the Maine Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation, &amp; Forestry will moderate this panel discussion, followed by ample time for audience Q&amp;A and networking. To register for this event, and to learn more on additional panelists, <a href="#">click here</a>.</p>
<p><b>Coastal Flooding and Sea Level Rise—Community and Needs and Adaptation Tools</b></p> 	<p>November 28 9:30am-4:00pm University of Southern Maine Wishcamper Center, Rm 102</p>	<p>This forum—staying above high water: helping prepare Maine’s coastal communities for coastal flooding and sea level rise—is hosted by the Island Institute. The event is designed to bring together community leaders, technical experts, and others working in the field of coastal community adaptation. Presenters will share the latest information on coastal hazards, how best to visualize and communicate vulnerability in Maine, and options for adaptations. Attendees will also hear from local companies specializing in helping communities identify their vulnerabilities and carry out solutions, and the day will conclude with existing funding options for applying such strategies. <a href="#">Follow this link</a> to register for this free event.</p>

## Energy News

**Fairfield Exploring Solar Array for Unused Landfill**—A developer is proposing to build the facility, which would generate enough electricity to power 750 homes. Gizo Energy LLC said the plan is for the company to finance a 5-megawatt solar array on a 25-acre lot, and to involve students at Kennebec Valley Community College. For the full article, [click here](#).

**Delays in Massachusetts could Affect Natural Gas Customers in Maine**—Opposition to a new compressor in Weymouth jeopardizes upgrades to existing pipelines. Continued delay in building a new pumping station in Massachusetts for natural gas bound of Maine could lead to higher prices for heat and electricity, if the station isn’t finished before the 2019 heating season. [Follow this link](#) for the full story.

## In Other News...

**Your Tiny House Dream could be a Scratch Ticket Away Thanks to the Maine Lottery**—Now through December 9, for \$5 anyone can buy a chance at winning their very own custom-built tiny house prize valued at \$87,143 included state and federal taxes as part of the lottery's "Tiny Homes, Big Wins" game. There is no unified building code or legal definition of a "tiny house," but a residential structure under 500 square feet is generally accepted to be a tiny home, according to various online groups advocating the simplified lifestyle. The Maine Uniform Building and Energy Board is currently in the final stages of amending its building code rules to take into account the unique structural aspects of a tiny home including sleeping lofts, stairs, ladders and emergency escapes. [Read more here.](#)

**A New American Revolution is Starting in New England—Against Daylight Savings Time**—Earlier this year, Donna Bailey, a Maine state representative, sponsored a bill that would move Maine to the Atlantic Time Zone, an hour ahead of its current position in the Eastern Time Zone, and no longer observe Daylight Saving Time. The bill passed both chambers of the Maine state legislature. But the Senate added a provision that Maine voters must approve the change in a referendum, and the referendum could only be triggered by neighboring Massachusetts and New Hampshire changing their time, too. Since neither of those states had immediate plans to change their time zones, the move seemed doomed. But now there is hope. Massachusetts is considering a permanent change in its time zone. For the full article, [follow this link.](#)

## Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

**Don't let Vampire Energy Users Suck your House Dry**—our houses are filled with electronic devices that require energy even when they're off. Marina Schaffler, who provides research, writing, and editing services to nonprofits and social enterprise organizations through Natural Choices, wrote in the Portland Press Herald's Source:

- Powering machines that are ostensibly off is not only environmentally damaging, it is expensive. For individual households, this hidden waste can leach **\$150 to \$400 each year.**
  - The easiest means to stem this electricity drain would be to establish energy-efficiency standards requiring manufacturers to minimize the idle power load of their appliances. Sadly, that kind of forward-thinking legislation seems unlikely
  - The next best step would be to enact labeling laws that help consumers identify devices with high phantom loads. That too will likely have to wait.
  - Past studies have identified the most voracious vampires being:
    - Big users (30 kWh or more) include laptops, televisions, satellite TV or cable boxes, boom boxes, home copiers, fax machines, printers and doorbells.
    - Moderate users (10-30 kWh) include microwave ovens, garage door openers, routers, desktop computers, and DVD and CD players.
  - Some vampire appliances can be put on a diet. To limit the phantom draw of entertainment devices, consider disabling their "quick start" or "instant on" functions. Set computers to enter "sleep" mode after 10 minutes of inactivity.
  - Where there is a cluster of related appliances involving a computer or entertainment center, you can control them most easily and economically by plugging all the cords into a single power strip and turning that off.
  - Acquiring the double-shutdown habit is easier if you can locate power strips in readily accessible locations
- To read Marina's full piece, [follow this link.](#)

**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.