



## Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 6, Issue 2, February 2018 – Falmouth, Maine

- Winter is here, and with all the snow already, it won't be leaving anytime soon. How do you keep your home comfortable and warm in the winter while keeping your heating expenses down?
- 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](mailto:kdarling@falmouthme.org) with your thoughts and suggestions.

## Calendar of Local Green Events-February 2018

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date/Time/Location</b>	<b>Description</b>
<p><b>NRCM's Citizen Action Day</b></p>  <p><b>Natural Resources Council of Maine</b></p>	<p>February 6 8:00am-1:00pm Maine State House and NRCM's Office 3 Wage St., Augusta</p>	<p>At the Natural Resources Council of Maine's Citizen Action Day, participants will hear from NRCM's staff experts first-hand. They will provide information on environmental issues in Maine, upcoming priority bills, and tips to communicate effectively with legislators. They will bring you across the street to the Maine State House to help you find your legislators, and will make sure that everyone leaves Augusta having made a difference. Time and time again, concerned citizens like you have had a big impact on the outcome of legislation that is important for Maine's environment.</p> <p>Please RSVP in advance for this event so that the NRCM can provide the correct legislator information for you when you arrive. For more information about this event, contact Todd Martin, NRCM Grassroots Outreach Coordinator at (207) 430-0115.</p>
<p><b>Maine Home and Remodeling Show</b></p>  <p><b>THE MAINE HOME &amp; REMODELING SHOW</b></p>	<p>February 10-11 Saturday 10:00am-5:00pm Sunday 10:00am-4:00pm Cross Insurance Arena 1 Civic Center Sq., Portland</p>	<p>This Home and Remodeling Show features over 180 exhibitor booths showcasing the latest products and services for your home in areas such as building, remodeling, kitchens and bathrooms, outdoor living, green living and so much more.</p> <p>For more information, <a href="#">follow this link</a>.</p>

<p><b>Portland Green Drinks— Campaign Earth: Organizing a series of actions and events together to build a world that is just and sustainable for all who live here.</b></p> 	<p>February 13 5:30pm Mariner’s Church Banquet Center 368 Fore St., Portland</p>	<p>Portland Greendrinks is part of the international Greendrinks network — an informal, volunteer-managed social networking group built around a common interest in the natural environment. It occurs on the second Tuesday of every month, starting at 5:30 pm. The goal of Greendrinks is pretty simple: good times shared among people working in, or interested in, environmental and sustainability issues.</p> <p>For more information, visit Portland Greendrinks page, <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<p><b>Maine Audubon’s Winter Carnival</b></p> 	<p>February 17 10:00am-2:00pm Maine Audubon 20 Gilsland Farm Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>Join Maine Audubon for a celebration of winter weather and wildlife! Learn, create, and play at a variety of indoor and outdoor activity stations, including a winter wildlife touch table, giant snow shelter, scavenger hunt, tracking activities, snow science and art, face painting, snowshoeing with L.L. Bean Outdoor Discovery School, and more! Matt Loosigian of Earth Jams will play two interactive concerts at 11am and 12:30pm, and you can fuel up with treats and eats from The Marshmallow Cart, Mashed in Maine, and bird-friendly coffee samples courtesy of the Nature Store. For more information, <a href="#">click here</a>.</p>
<p><b>Climate Change Messaging Workshop</b></p> 	<p>February 26 8:30am-12:00pm Cloudport 63 Federal St., Portland</p>	<p>Come meet the folks at the Maine Climate Table and explore the results of in-depth research about climate change messages that resonate especially well with Mainers. This interactive workshop is tailored for communication and policy professionals at nonprofit and for-profit organizations across Maine. To learn more about the Climate Table and benefits of attending this event, visit <a href="#">their event page</a>.</p>
<p><b>NRCM’s Film Screening— “An Inconvenient Sequel”</b></p> 	<p>February 28 5:30pm-8:00pm Portland Public Library Rines Auditorium 5 Congress St., Portland</p>	<p>Connect with the Natural Resources Council of Maine at the Portland Public Library for a free screening of Al Gore’s new climate change film, “An Inconvenient Sequel.” Before the film, you will hear from NRCM’s Outreach Coordinator Kristin Jackson on their work in protecting the environment.</p>

## Energy News

**Solar Array Goes Online at Brunswick landing to Help Power Business Park**—The project is the largest of its kind in Maine for developer ReVision Energy, with 4,500 photovoltaic panels. Follow [this link](#) to read the full story.

**CMP Puts October Storm Costs at \$69M, Emera Maine at \$8.6M**—“Damage occurred on nearly every distribution circuit, resulting in more than 1,400 broken poles,” Eric Stinneford, CMP’s vice president, treasurer, controller and clerk, wrote to the PUC. Of the total cost, about \$32 million went to replacing damaged infrastructure, including poles, cross arms, transformers and related equipment. Additionally, \$320,000 was allocated for repairing CMP transmission facilities. For the full article, [follow this link](#).

**Maine Officials Say Tax Cuts Should Prompt Lower Utility Rates**—State officials say they have launched a two-pronged effort to ensure that savings reaped by Maine utilities from the recently implemented corporate tax cut will be passed on to customers as soon as possible in the form of lower rates. Still, it will likely take several months for ratepayers in Maine to see any reductions in their electric, water and gas bills, and the amount of those reductions is still unknown. [Click here](#) for the full story.

**Environmental Groups Sue LePage, Says Wind Farm Ban is Unconstitutional**—The Conservation Law Foundation has gone to court in an attempt to overturn a moratorium that Governor Paul LePage imposed last week on most new wind energy projects in Maine. Read more by [following this link](#).

**High-Tech Waste-to-Energy Facility Set to Open in May**—The company behind a state-of-the-art solid waste disposal facility in Hampden designed to convert trash into biofuel has secured enough funding to begin operations in May 2018. The Fiberright model for disposing of waste includes dividing trash into reusable and not reusable materials. The organic waste is then used to make biofuel, which is similar to natural gas, while glass, metals, plastics and paper are sold on the commodities market. Leftover fibrous material can be turned into fuel pellets for heating. For more on this story, [click here](#).

## In Other News...

**Residential Food Waste Collection Access in the U.S.**—Survey of residential food waste collection programs across the country from June to November 2017 ultimately identified 148 curbside collection and 67 drop-off programs. To read more, [click here](#).

**South Portland’s Food Waste Pilot Increases Recycling**—About 600 households in the Knightville and Meetinghouse Hill neighborhoods received 6-gallon buckets to use for curbside compost collection. Additional bins were set up at the transfer station on Highland Avenue for residents who do not live in the pilot-program zone. Recycling has increased in the two neighborhoods by nearly 10 percent, from 29 percent to 38 percent, and 30 tons of waste were collected from May to November of 2017, according to data provided by the City’s Sustainability Office. To read more about South Portland’s recycling efforts and goals, [follow this link](#).

**McDonald’s Announces New Sustainability Goals: Thinking Circular with More Sustainable Packaging and Recycling**—As the world’s largest restaurant company, McDonald’s has recognized their responsibility and opportunity to take action on some of the most pressing social and environmental challenges in the world today. Their 2025 goals include improving their packaging and reducing waste. To read more on McDonald’s newly improved, and ongoing sustainability journey, [click here](#).

## Tips for Winter Backyard Composting:

*Simple methods for controlling temperature and moisture will keep your composter active and productive:*

- Keep adding carbon

First remember that compost must be fed the right balance of green (nitrogen) and brown (carbon) ingredients. It is best to gather and bag leaves in the fall, keeping them dry to add them to the mix in the winter.

- Insulate the active compost

Be sure to harvest the finished compost in the fall to make room for new additions to the mix over the winter. When overhauling the bin itself, move the bin into a spot with most direct sun for the winter. Start rebuilding with a layer of leaves, or with straw, cardboard or sawdust. Put the active part in the middle, and the cover it with more browns; this insulates the active compost. Even in the coldest weather, the microbes in the compost must be kept active.

- Monitor the moisture

Moisture control is very important in maintaining active compost through the winter. Keep compost piles and bins well covered to prevent the rain or snow from directly falling on the pile. Check the compost when adding food scraps, also making sure that any wind has not dried the pile out.

- Insulation

In all but the most active composters, insulation will be needed to ensure the compost remains active throughout the winter. Insulation can be as simple as cardboard, straw or brown leaves covering a compost pile, or as complex as a shelter built and insulated around a bin.

- Indoor methods of composting

If you'd rather not brave the cold and snow, an insulated sealed composter that sits in the corner of the garage is a great option. With the proper balance of carbon and nitrogen components, these units will not emit any odors.

**For more detail on winter composting, and more insight on some basic composting methods, [click here!](#)**

## Did You Know...

... that the number of curbside collection programs for organics has increased from 79 in 2014 to 148 in 2017? This is an increase of 87%!

...in Chittenden County, Vermont, a drop-off program for organics has been in place for 16 years?

...at the Falmouth transfer station, we also have a drop-off program for organics? Free of charge!

...by 2025, the World Bank estimates a staggering 6 million tons of waste will be produced each day?

... McDonald's operates over 37,000 restaurants in more than 100 countries, which serves 69 million people each day?

...by 2025 100 percent of McDonald's guest packaging will come from renewable, recycled or certified sources with a preference for Forest Stewardships Council Certification?

...by 2050 McDonald's goal to recycle guest packaging is in 100 percent of their restaurants?

**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.