





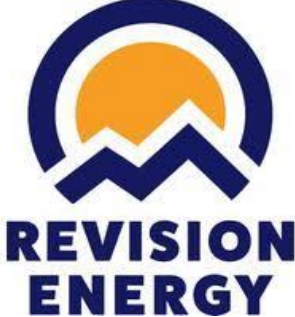


## Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 6, Issue 9, September 2018 – Falmouth, Maine

- How do you live sustainably in the Summer season? What are ways you keep down waste during get-togethers? How do you keep your home cool in these warm summer months?
- 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-September 2018

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date/Time/Location</b>	<b>Description</b>
<p><b>Portland Greenfest</b></p> 	<p>September 8 10:00am-4:00pm Monument Sq., Portland</p>	<p>The fifth annual Portland Greenfest will take place on September 8<sup>th</sup>, showcasing music, exhibitors and children’s activities. More than 40 exhibitors will be there highlighting renewable energy, local foods, electric cars, clean water, wildlife, green products for your home and business, as well as ways to get involved in your community. Visit the <a href="#">Portland Greenfest website here</a> for more information.</p>
<p><b>Falmouth, Cumberland and Yarmouth Drive Electric Event!</b></p>  	<p>September 9 12:00-3:00pm TideSmart Global 380 US-1, Falmouth</p>	<p>Join the Towns of Falmouth, Cumberland, and Yarmouth at this tri-town drive electric event! This event is part of the <a href="#">National Drive Electric Week</a>, which is a nationwide celebration that heightens awareness of today’s widespread availability of all-electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. There will be local dealerships offering test drives, kids activities and tours of TideSmart’s <a href="#">Viridescent Building</a>, Maine’s first net-positive structure. You are not going to want to miss this EV block party! Visit the <a href="#">event page</a> for more information. See you there!</p>
<p><b>E2Tech Gubernatorial Debate</b></p> 	<p>September 13 7:30-10:30am USM Abromson Center 88 Bedford St., Portland</p>	<p>E2Tech is pleased to host the candidates for the position of the next Governor of the State of Maine for a lively debate on September 13<sup>th</sup>. In this highly influential election year, E2Tech continues its mission to provide balanced information on energy and environmental issues affecting Maine’s economy. E2Tech’s 2018 Gubernatorial Debate will help ensure that Maine voters are informed about the facts and policy objectives regarding these important issues straight from the candidates themselves. <a href="#">Register at this link.</a></p>

<p><b>ReVision Energy Lunch &amp; Learn</b></p> 	<p>September 14 and 28 12:00-1:00pm ReVision Energy Office 142 Presumpscot St., Portland</p>	<p>Have you ever wondered how you can transition into a clean energy future? Join ReVision Energy where their staff provides you with a free lunch and help you learn about the solar lifestyle and why you should make the switch to renewable energy. They will give you all the tools you need to know for a clean energy transition at your home. Can't make it on the 14<sup>th</sup>? They'll have another lunch and learn on the 28<sup>th</sup>.</p>
<p><b>Common Ground Country Fair</b></p> 	<p>September 21-23 Common Ground Fairgrounds Unity</p>	<p>Join Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association for the annual Common Ground fair! If you've ever been to the fair, you know—and if you haven't been, anyone who has will tell you—it's an event like no other, that brings together so many people from so many walks of life. Agricultural demonstrations and projects, children's area, foods, crafts, and more...all organic, all from Maine.</p> <p>Visit <a href="#">this link</a> for more information.</p>
<p><b>Falmouth Land Trusts Harvest Moon Farm Fest</b></p> 	<p>September 27 5:00-8:00pm Hurricane Valley Farm 17 Shuster Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>The Falmouth Land Trust is hosting its annual celebration of conservation and open space in Falmouth. Enjoy an evening of wine, beer and local food— this year's event is part of Falmouth's 300<sup>th</sup> celebration. Come visit the historic farm and enjoy an evening with members of the community. For tickets and more information <a href="#">follow this link</a>.</p>

## Energy News

**Six Businesses Receive \$530K in USDA Rural Development Grants**—these funds have been offered through the USDA's Renewable Energy for America Program (REAP), and its Value-Added Producer Grants Program. Representative Chellie Pingree says, "these grants will allow local businesses to save on energy costs while cutting fossil-fuel consumption through renewable energy production, a win-win for the local economy and environment". [Follow this link](#) to read the full article and more on the six businesses who received these funds.

**Proposed Class Action Suit Against CMP Expands**—this could be the largest class action suit ever filed in Maine. The class action lawsuit filed against Central Maine Power July 19 expanded August 15. The court has made no decision on the proposed class. Cumberland County Superior Court said a decision may be a month away. [Read more here.](#)

**Hearing Held in Bangor on Trump Administration's Plan to Ease Efficiency Standards**—staffer for Susan Collins said at the hearing, “halting this progress by rolling these standards back could cost American consumers and businesses billions of dollars at the gas pump and could hinder the competitiveness of American automakers”. For the full story [follow this link](#).

**'Husky Line' Bus Route Will Connected Portland, Gorham and Westbrook**—besides linking USM campuses in Gorham and Portland and introducing transit to the Town of Gorham, the new route will increase the level of service along the William Clark Drive/Main Street corridor in Westbrook and the Brighton Avenue corridor in Portland. [Read more here](#).

## Recycling News

[Keep Calm and Recycle On: The Sky Isn't Falling](#) this article is part of a blog on the Northeast Recycling Council's website, which reveals some truth into why recycling is a dynamic process forced to change as products evolve and markets fluctuate. The article also touches on the fact that this is not the first-time recycling markets have crashed, and brings hope to them bouncing back.

## In Other News...

**Anger Flares Over Waterville's Plastic Bag Ordinance Debate**—voters will get to decide for themselves whether they want to prohibit large retailers from dispensing plastic bags, since the City councilors voted 5-1 to override the Mayor's veto of a vote they previously took to put the referendum on the November ballot. The vote followed lengthy comments, mostly from people who were angry about the proposed plastic bag ordinance that would prohibit retailers larger than 10,000-square-feet in size from dispensing plastic bags. [Click here](#) for the full story.

**Portland, South Portland Seek Climate Plan Bidders**—more than 30 firms are showing interest in helping the cities create a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. The study is expected to cost \$220,000 with a key goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent from current levels by 2050. For the full article [follow this link](#).

## Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

*Improper recycling could start costing ratepayers' money!*

If you're unsure if it can or cannot be recycled...

- Visit [www.ecomaine.org](http://www.ecomaine.org)
- Download the RECYLOPEDIA ([Instructions here](#)) or search for it in the App Store. We have small handouts with instructions for the app in the Clerks area at Town Hall also.
- Get the kids involved! The **Wicked Smaht Recycler** game can be found [at this site](#), and you might learn a few new things if you play, too!

## Did you know...

...that so far in 2018, the Maine DEP has issued two air quality warnings? In 2017, they issued six.

...that U.S. households are holding on to their vehicles longer? According to the National Household Travel Survey, the average vehicle age has increased from 9.3 years in 2009 to 10.5 years in 2017.

...that six states account for more than 70% of U.S. fuel ethanol production? They are: Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois, Minnesota, Indiana, and South Dakota. This correlates to 265 million barrels of ethanol produces annually out of the U.S. total of 367 million barrels.

...that air conditioning equipment is used in 87% of homes in the United States, and account for 12% of total home energy expenditures? Of course, statistics like these vary by region, [check out more stats here](#).

... that the Town of Falmouth now owns and operates all of the streetlights, which are high efficiency LEDs, and are all Dark Sky Compliant?

...that all of the thin film plastic generated from the streetlight project, 17 large contractor bags full, has been properly recycled? Our Public Works department brought all of this **clean and dry plastic film** to Hannaford, who is a commercial recycling partner for [Trex Composite Decking](#). These locations are the BEST way for you to recycle all of your thin film plastic, too! Please do not put this type of recyclables in your curbside or single-sort silver bullets.



It is very important  
**we recycle**  
**only the**  
**right**  
**things!**



**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.