








Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 6, Issue 10, October 2018 – Falmouth, Maine

- How do you live sustainably in the Fall season? How do you prepare for the colder days ahead?
- 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 with your thoughts and suggestions.

Calendar of Local Green Events-October 2018

Event	Date/Time/Location	Description
<p>Way 2 GO Maine Commuter Challenge</p> 	<p>October 1-31 All across Maine</p>	<p>This is a business-vs- business challenge event to encourage Mainers to commute another way and award those who do! Take the Challenge and make those commutes count! It’s fun and easy—log your daily travel to work or school for the month of October (that’s via carpool, bus, train bicycle, walking or telecommuting). Organizations compete for most greener transportation trips recorded, the most new GO MAINE members, and most team spirit. To learn more and to sign up, visit the website here.</p>
<p>Portland Buy Local Indie Biz Awards</p> 	<p>October 4 5:30pm Portland House of Music 25 Temple St., Portland</p>	<p>Join Portland Buy Local and hundreds of other localists in celebrating Portland’s independent business community. Enjoy tasty local food, a silent auction featuring treasures from Portland’s independent businesses, a raffle, and live music from <i>Saved and Sound</i>. And, of course, a cash bar with lots of local brews! New this year is the “Indie Biz Hall of Fame,” honoring ten anchors of the local business community as the initial inductees. Click here for the Facebook Event Page</p>
<p>GrowSmart Maine Annual Summit—The Power of Localism: Tapping into a Maine Tradition</p> 	<p>October 11 8:30am-5:00pm Cross Insurance Center 515 Main St., Bangor</p>	<p>Maine’s premier smart growth conference offers inspiration, resources and networking opportunities and this year they’ve created a program coupling national leaders with Maine successes and Maine’s first Smart Growth Awards. Plenary and breakout sessions addressing Maine’s rural economy are followed by Bangor Experience tours and workshops throughout our host city. For more information, and to register, follow this link.</p>

<p>2018 Maine AppleCycle</p> 	<p>October 13 7:30am-3:00pm Across Southern Maine</p>	<p>The 4th Annual Maine AppleCycle breaks out of the ride mold with its agri-tourism orchard hop design featuring peak season apple orchards nestled along southern Maine’s most scenic rural roads. Carefully curated for the most appealing experience, the Maine AppleCycle offers four route choices: 7 miles, 35 miles, 62 miles, and 100 miles with fully stocked rest stops at beautiful apple orchards. Enjoy a locally sourced, fall-inspired lunch after your ride! For more information, and to register, visit this website.</p>
<p>The Surprising Journey of Your Recycling</p>  	<p>October 17 6:00-7:30pm Scarborough High School 11 Municipal Dr., Scarborough</p>	<p>Where does your recycling go, once brought to curb, transported to a transfer station, and beyond? You’d be surprised about what those materials can be turned into, afterwards. Watch a fascinating virtual tour of ecomaine’s recycling and trash-to-energy plants. Learn the journey that your soup can, glass, yogurt container and paper products take: recyclables are sorted on a conveyor belt using laser beam technology; milk jugs can become a bench or playground equipment; non-recyclable waste is incinerated and turned into electricity. How are cows involved, and how does this take a bite out of climate change? Learn how not to be a “wish-cycler”, and why knowing what items can be recycled and what cannot – matters now more than ever! How about e-waste, batteries, plastic bags, light bulbs, paint or home medical waste? Take home info to help you recycle like a pro.</p> <p><i>Do you think Falmouth should host one of these educational workshops? Let us know!</i></p>
<p>Cumberland County: Take Action for Maine’s Environment</p>  <p>Natural Resources Council of Maine</p>	<p>October 18 6:00-8:00pm Maine Audubon 20 Gilsland Farm Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>With so many environmental rollbacks being proposed, now is time to fight back against an anti-science, anti-environmental agenda. You will learn about the threats we face to our clean air, water, land and wildlife. Then, you will learn the citizen advocacy skills you’ll need to fight back, such as how to convince your legislators and how best to get out your message using social media and letters to the editor. Questions? Please contact Todd Martin, NRCM Grassroots Outreach Coordinator, at tmartin@nrcm.org or (207) 430-0115.</p>

Energy News

Opponents, Supports of Canada-Massachusetts Energy Project Speak at Hearings—about 200 people turned out for a pair of hearings held by the Maine Public Utilities Commission to speak on Central Maine Power's proposed transmission line known as New England Clean Energy Connect. It's a 145-mile power line that would bring Canadian hydropower through western Maine to Massachusetts. CMP has said that the project could bring essential jobs to a rural region of the state — some 1,700 jobs during construction, paying tens of millions of dollars in wages and putting about \$18 million into tax coffers. Maine power customers should also see lower power bills. [Follow this link](#) to read more.

Maine Governor Candidates Square off on Energy, Economy in E2Tech Forum—three candidates in Maine's governor's race offered their visions for the state's energy future at a Portland debate, which Republican Shawn Moody didn't attend. To read more on the conversations held, [click here](#).

Downeaster Readies for Expanded Brunswick-Boston Service— The Downeaster expects to make five round trips per day on its entire line as soon as it finishes the \$9.4 million construction of a secondary passing rail line in Falmouth and Cumberland called Royal Junction Siding. [Read the full story here](#).

Naples Tables Free EV Chargers Offer—ChargePoint, Inc., a California-based company that installs electric vehicle charging stations approached Naples with an offer to install charging stations on public land, free to the Town with the use of money from the Volkswagen Diesel Emission Settlement funds. The locally-elected officials did not share the same level of enthusiasm as the presenter, though. [Read more here](#).

City Wants New LED Streetlights—the Westbrook City Council is looking to replace more than 80 streetlights along the Main Street corridor with a newer design and more efficient lighting. While efficiency was a factor in proposing new street lights, so, too, was their appearance. The City Council took the first step toward that initiative by approving at first reading a \$25,000 bid award for Wright-Pierce, a Portland engineering firm, to redesign the lights and the accompanying electrical system along Main Street, as well as in the municipal parking lots off Ash, Church and Mechanic streets. The installation of new lights is estimated at \$600,000. [Read the full article here](#).

\$5M From Feds to Help Rural Bus Service in Maine—The U.S. Department of Transportation says the grants will modernize and improve bus service in the state. Nearly \$2.9M will go to the city of Bangor to replace buses operating on the city's fixed route. The federal transportation department says the grants will help make bus service in Maine more reliable and cost effective. [Read the full story here](#).

In Other News...

Plastic Bag Ban Fans Conduct Waterville Cleanup—the volunteers were supporters of a referendum question about whether to ban Waterville big-box stores' distribution of single-use plastic shopping bags. To read more about the cleanup efforts, and why there is opposition to ban plastic bags in Waterville, [follow this link](#).

'Aquaculture's Next Wave' Explores How Maine Entrepreneurs are Navigating Changing Seas—Mook Sea Farm's Walpole oyster facility will be able to store half a million live oysters, protecting them from rainfall events and toxins while competitors' harvests are off-limits. Read, or listen to this story on Maine Public [by clicking here](#).

Maine DEP Looks to Boost Composting, Recycling—The Maine Department of Environmental Protection is awarding a half dozen grants to expand composting and recycling programs around the state. The six grants amount to \$88,000 and are a part of a first-time DEP efforts to address waste management in new ways. One of the grants will go to *the town of Falmouth* to conduct a pilot project about increasing the convenience of collection drop-off sites for food scraps. The University of Maine at Presque Isle is also getting a grant to establish a composting program on campus. Other grants are going to farms, a solid waste facility and the Maine Resource Recovery Association.

Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

It's time to think about the change in seasons, and with that, cooler temperatures. Here are a few quick things you can do to prepare yourself as the temperatures start dropping:

- Check your tires: cooler temperatures can lower tire pressure and under-inflated tires reduce your car's fuel efficiency. It takes just a few minutes to inflate your tires to the proper pressure and it's well worth the grimy fingers. And while you're at it, check your car service records; is it time to rotate your tires yet? By regularly rotating your tires, you make sure your tires wear evenly. Regular tire rotation can extend your tire life and improve your gas mileage
- Clean and test your furnace: your furnace requires regular cleanings. Throughout the year, it collects lots of dust and debris, both of which can affect the furnace's performance and could even cause a fire. Clean out or replace your furnace filter regularly and get your furnace serviced by a professional before the cold weather calls.
- Do some yard work: take fallen leaves and use them in the garden to protect plants throughout the winter — or add them to your compost pile. Fall is the time to plant spring bulbs and some perennials. And you can also plant many types of trees and shrubs in the fall, which will give them enough time to develop a deep root system over the winter months and reduce their water needs come spring. Try and do as much raking as you can—not only is it emission free, but you may find yourself getting a good sweat in, too!

Did you know...

...that worldwide, aquaculture provides more than half of the world's seafood, and, at the same time, we in the United States import roughly 90% of our seafood?

...that Falmouth will host a second **WindowDressers Community Build**, assembling custom made window inserts, from November 10-12? We need volunteers! Please contact kdarling@falmouthme.org if you'd like to help!

...that our recycling contamination levels have decreased from 12%, down to 9%? However, we still may be penalized with additional waste disposal fees if we don't get it below 5%. Please recycle only the appropriate things! DO NOT BAG YOUR RECYCLING, and PLEASE REMOVE ALL CONTAINER LIDS. Questions? Please reach out!

...with the DEP grant Falmouth received, there will be 2 or 3 additional food waste drop-off stations? We divert nearly 12 tons annually from the Transfer Station location! We hope to roll out the new program in April, to celebrate Earth Day in 2019. Stay tuned and keep composting!



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.