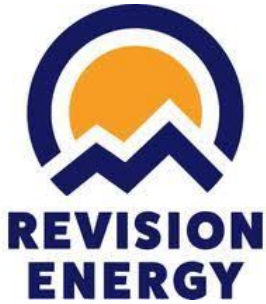




## Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 6, Issue 12, December 2018 – Falmouth, Maine

- Winter is here, and the days are short and cold. How do you live sustainably in the Winter season?
- Enjoy this newsletter? Want to be more involved with sustainability in Falmouth? REAC needs 2 new members! Contact Town Clerk Ellen Planer for more information.
- 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-December 2018

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date/Time/Location</i>	<i>Description</i>
<p><b>Movie Night with ReVision Energy: Saving Snow</b></p> 	<p>December 6 5:30-7:00pm Rising Tide Brewery 103 Fox St., Portland</p>	<p>Across the country, people who depend on winter for their livelihood are feeling the heat. On the sidelines of skiing and snowboarding, an epic struggle to reverse rising temperatures is unfolding. Ski towns and the snow sports industry are paving the way towards a clean energy future. Join ReVision Energy and Maine Audubon for a screening of the new documentary “Saving Snow” and learn how you can make a difference. The movie starts at 6, drinks/snacks/conversation at 5:30.</p>
<p><b>Building a Stronger Maine: Navigating the Path to a Clean Energy Future</b></p> 	<p>December 7 8:30am-4:30pm Bangor Savings Bank 5 Senator Way, Augusta</p>	<p>Join businesses, advocates, community members, and policymakers—including members of the incoming administration and legislature—for this lively forum exploring Maine’s opportunity to use clean energy reforms to unlock significant new economic, consumer, and public health benefits. Keynote by Governor-elect Janet Mills. For more information contact Kathleen Meil at <a href="mailto:kmeil@acadiacenter.org">kmeil@acadiacenter.org</a>, and to register for the event <a href="#">follow this link</a>.</p>
<p><b>Portland Greendrinks</b></p> 	<p>December 11 5:30pm Location TBD <a href="#">Visit the event website here.</a></p>	<p>Portland Greendrinks hosts monthly meetups connecting you to good green folks, businesses, and non-profits that drive the culture, economy, and creative spirit of Portland, Maine. Location changes every month and always features local beers with non-alcoholic options. BYO vessel for \$5; purchase a corn cup for \$8.</p>

<p><b>E2Tech Winter Networking Reception &amp; Annual meeting</b></p> 	<p>December 18 5:00-7:00pm Rising Tide Brewery 103 Fox St., Portland</p>	<p>Join E2Tech and friends for their Annual Winter Networking Reception. There will be food, delicious local brews, and the chance to network with leaders in the energy, environmental, and cleantech sector. E2Tech urges all members to join in for the annual meeting (as part of this reception) to vote on Board Member candidates. You will also learn more about E2Tech's exciting slate of upcoming forums for 2019. More information and registration <a href="#">can be found here.</a></p>
<p><b>SunriseGuide Holiday Open House</b></p> 	<p>December 18 4:00-7:00pm The SunriseGuide 80 Elm St., Portland</p>	<p>Take a breather from the bustle of the holidays and stop by the SunriseGuide's office for their open house. They will greet you with good cheer, festive beverages and yummy munchies, plus a host of last-minute gift ideas for the sustainably-minded Mainers in your life, including: 2019 SunriseGuides (print &amp; mobile editions) Green &amp; Healthy Maine subscriptions Hand-crafted SunriseGuide ceramic mugs AND a gift card sale, offering 20% off gift cards from great local businesses. More information can be found <a href="#">at this site.</a></p>
<p><b>NRCM Polar Bear Dip n' Dash</b></p> 	<p>December 31 11:00am Back Bay, Portland</p>	<p>NRCM's chilling and thrilling 5k and polar bear dip raises funds to combat climate change. Celebratory music and DJ at the 5k finish line, photo ops with polar bear mascots, and screaming mayhem into the ocean! It's a wildly fun event for a great cause! The effects of climate change on Maine's environment are severe. Weather patterns are changing from one extreme to the next, habitat has been lost, and our seas are rising. Energy efficiency, clean air, and renewable energy sources are a priority for NRCM. Every cent you raise will be used to directly support this work to reduce emissions and realize a clean energy future. For more information and registration <a href="#">follow this link.</a></p>
<p><b>SAVE THE DATE!</b> <b>6<sup>th</sup> Annual Home Energy Fair</b> Co-hosted with Cumberland and Yarmouth</p> 	<p>January 26 10:00am-3:00pm Falmouth Elementary School 58 Woodville Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>Join Falmouth's REAC alongside the towns of Cumberland and Yarmouth for the 6th Annual Home Energy Fair. Vendors include those in the field of home energy, energy efficiency, alternative fuels, and so much more. Admission is free, children's activities are provided as well as a chance to win door prizes. For more information, contact Kimberly Darling at <a href="mailto:kdarling@falmouthme.org">kdarling@falmouthme.org</a>. We look forward to seeing you there!</p>

## Energy News

**CMP Neglected to Charge 3,400 New Accounts for Months. The Rest of its Customers May Get the Bill**—The company blamed the billing snafu on a rash of retirements which left the company shorthanded. CMP says it hasn't bothered to tally the amount of money going uncollected because revenue shortfalls are adjusted in rates each year via an agreement with the Maine Public Utilities Commission. So existing CMP customers are likely to pick up the tab, if CMP's annual revenues fall below a set target and the PUC doesn't object to the billing practice. [Follow this link for the full story.](#)

**With New State Leadership, a Renewed Vision for Clean Energy in Maine**—A wide-ranging coalition of Maine businesses, nonprofits, clean energy developers and others are gearing up for the next legislative session to promote policies intended to lower emissions and drive down costs of renewable energy. The Energy Pathway for Maine group formed in September in anticipation of an election that would result in a more clean-energy-friendly governor than outgoing Republican Gov. Paul LePage. [Read more here.](#)

**Mills Shaping her Cabinet with Eye on Energy, Planning and Opioid Crisis**—The Democratic governor-elect has yet to announce who she will hire, but her spokesman points to key areas and says Mills is working to identify the best candidates regardless of political affiliation. She also has promised to take a new approach to problems the state is facing relating to climate change and has said she will establish an Office of Policy Innovation to provide independent analysis to her and the Legislature on a variety of state economic, community development and natural resource issues that include increasing clean-energy production. A spokesman for Mills said Monday that she already has begun interviewing candidates for commissioner-level positions. [Read the full story here.](#)

**Fengate and Longroad Co-Developing Weaver Wind Project in Maine**—This partnership recently announced they will develop and construct the 72.6 MW Weaver Wind Project in Hancock County, Maine. The project is in late stage development and is expected to achieve notice to proceed in mid-2019 with a commercial operations date in late 2020 and will be a new and significant source of renewable energy in Maine. [Follow this link for the full story.](#)

## In Other News...

**Busted! Recycling Smuggling Ring Netted for \$16.1 Million, California Officials Say**—California authorities say they've broken up a smuggling ring that was hauling empty cans and bottles into the state, so they could cash in the recycling refund. Three suspects were arrested in a case that resulted in fraudulent payouts totaling \$16.1 million over three years.

**One Big Recycling Success: Maine Bottle Bill is 40 Years Old!** —While the recycling markets are tough and there is now a need for more recycling education, there's a bright spot: Maine's 40-year-old bottle bill. Mainers have been paying deposits and religiously returning cans and bottles for nickel or 15-cent paybacks since 1978. The original goal of the bottle bill in 1976 was to reduce litter along roads, highways and sidewalks. It's done so much more than that!

## Did you know...

... estimates are that 90% of Maine beverage cans and bottles are recycled?

...in 2017, Maine's bottle and can recycling accounted for 37,500 tons of glass, 4,9000 tons of aluminum and 9,000 tons of plastic kept out of landfills and incinerator plants?

...that only 10 states have beverage container laws? They are California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Oregon and Vermont.

## Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

- When rearranging the house for the holiday seasons, you'll likely see some dust! It's important to make sure baseboard heaters are clean and dust free so they can work efficiently. Take a few minutes to give them a good clean when changing things around!
- Bring a reusable coffee mug wherever you go! Local coffee shops often give discounts for reusable mugs! Also, don't forget your reusable shopping bags at any store, not just the grocery!
- Buy local to save on shipping packaging!
- If you're shopping online, select "frustration free" packaging to eliminate unnecessary packaging on some items. Look for ways to consolidate orders to reduce travel and emissions. Make sure to break down boxes to save room for other recycled items.
- Don't let your leftovers go to waste! If they do, be sure to compost them.
- Wrap gifts in comics or reuse wrapping paper you may have saved from last year. Get creative!

**Please remember, DO NOT recycle items you shouldn't!**

**Do not recycle plastic bags, utensils or straws, Christmas lights, decorations and ornaments, or styrofoam.**

When in doubt, throw it out! Visit ecomaine's [RECYCLOPEDIA](#) if you have questions or contact your Sustainability Coordinator at [kdarling@falmouthme.org](mailto:kdarling@falmouthme.org) or 699-5337.



**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.