





Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

"Energy News You Can Use" Volume 7, Issue 1, January 2019 – Falmouth, Maine

- Happy New Year! How are you planning to make 2019 a sustainable year?
- 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.
- REAC is still looking for one new member! Contact Town Clerk Ellen Planer if you're interested!

Calendar of Local Green Events—January 2019

Event	Date/Time/Location	Description
<p>MIAQC Indoor Insanity 5K</p>  <p>Maine Indoor Air Quality Council</p>	<p>January 13 7:00am-12:00pm USM Gorham Campus 37 College Ave., Gorham</p>	<p>Join the Maine Indoor Air Quality Council in mid-January for a race event unlike any other in Maine. Get out of the cold and head indoors: no ice underfoot, no frigid gusts in your face, and no snow overhead. Who knew running in circles was SO much fun? Music, camaraderie, and running for a cause...preventing lung cancer in Maine! More information and registration can be found on the Facebook event page here.</p>
<p>"Defending the Arctic Refuge": Film Screening and Discussion</p>  <p>Natural Resources Council of Maine</p> 	<p>January 16 6:30-8:30pm Maine Audubon 20 Gilsland Farm Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>For five months, Kristin Gates and Jeremy La Zelle lived with the Gwich'in people, followed the Porcupine Caribou herd migration on foot, camped with polar bears on the Arctic Ocean, and paddled 500 miles down the Porcupine River. This was all to document the wild Arctic ecosystem and the voices of the natives who have been fighting for decades to protect their sacred land. Join NRCM and the Maine Audubon as they screen the film, hear from the filmmakers, and learn why the Arctic Refuge must be protected and preserved for all time. Purchase your tickets here.</p>
<p>It's Getting Hot in Here! Opportunities & Challenges for Heat Pump Technology in Maine</p> 	<p>January 17 7:30-10:00am Congregation Bet Ha'am 81 Westbrook Street, South Portland</p>	<p>Recent studies point to "strategic electrification" as a necessary strategy for New England states seeking to keep energy affordable. Join E2Tech and Efficiency Maine for a discussion of Maine's growing use of heat pump technology, and its potential to deliver more affordable energy and reduce carbon pollution. Efficiency Maine will present analysis of how much space and water heating in Northeast states is forecasted to switch to electric, to meet climate stabilization targets by 2030 and 2050. Follow this link for more event information.</p>

<p>Cutting Red Tape: Maine Prosperity Luncheon</p> <p>THE MAINE HERITAGE POLICY CENTER</p> <p><i>We the people of Maine...</i></p>	<p>January 17 12:00-1:30pm DiMillo's On the Water 25 Long Wharf, Portland</p>	<p>Join the Maine Heritage Policy Center on Thursday, January 17 at DiMillo's to kick off their 2019 Maine Prosperity Luncheon Series with Mr. James Broughel, Senior Research Fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University and an adjunct professor of law at the Antonin Scalia Law School. Mr. Broughel will unveil a new analysis of the regulatory landscape of Maine and discuss how policymakers can create a more growth-friendly environment that attracts investment and entrepreneurs. Follow this link to the event's Facebook page.</p>
<p>Grow Maine Green Expo 2019</p> 	<p>January 23 7:30am-5:00pm Augusta Civic Center 76 Community Dr., Augusta</p>	<p>Established in 1970, the Maine Landscape and Nursery Association (MELNA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the encouragement and promotion of its members throughout the industry, including financial support of secondary horticultural education and product research, website connectivity, media representation, and a professional certification program. The <i>Grow Maine Green Expo</i> showcases exhibits, recognition awards, scholarships, businesses meetings and seminars. More information can be found here.</p>
<p>6th Annual Home Energy Fair</p> <p>Hosted by the towns of Falmouth, Cumberland and Yarmouth!</p> 	<p>January 26 10:00am-3:00pm Falmouth Elementary School 58 Woodville Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>Join Falmouth 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, alternatives fuels, insulation, weatherization, financing, and so much more. Admission is free, and children's activities are provided, so bring the whole family! There is also a chance to win door prizes from businesses in all three towns, in addition to vendor door prizes. This year, Lee Nissan will be offering test drives in all-electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.</p> <p>For more information, contact Kimberly Darling at kdarling@falmouthme.org. We look forward to seeing you there!</p>

Energy News

Ecology School Prepares to Build New Home in Saco, and it'll be Among Maine's Greenest—The criteria are based on a green building certification program and sustainable design framework. The Living Building Challenge promotes itself as “the world’s most rigorous proven performance standard for buildings”. The Director of the School said under the criteria, the school must produce most energy than it uses. Read the entire story by [clicking this link](#).

Solar Power Achieved a New England Milestone on Chilly Thanksgiving—Sun-generated electricity reached a level that actually shifted peak energy demand away from the usual midmorning, showing solar’s growing role on the region’s electric grid. For the first time since ISO-New England started compiling data in 2000 – and possibly the first time ever – peak demand didn’t come in the midmorning. “The change wasn’t caused by New Englanders suddenly deciding to change their cooking habits, but rather the further influence of solar power in the region,” ISO-New England concluded. Thanksgiving wasn’t the only solar highlight for New England in 2018, [read more here](#).

Portland Completes 4-Acre Solar Project—Portland’s solar array, which was delayed for about a year because of environmental issues associated with a lack of maintenance at the landfill, is expected to produce 1.2 million kilowatt hours of electricity a year. That’s about 3 percent of the city’s municipal usage and enough energy to power City Hall and Merrill Auditorium for one year. [Follow this link to read more](#).

U.S. Coal Consumption Drops to Lowest Level Since 1979—A report by the U.S. Energy Information Administration project that 2018 would see the lowest U.S. coal consumption since 1979, as well as the second-greatest number on record of coal-fired power plants shutting down. The country’s electrical grid accounts for most of U.S. coal consumption. U.S. coal demand has been falling since 2007 in the face of competition from increasingly abundant and affordable natural gas and renewable energy, such as solar and wind power. [More on this article, here](#).

Most of Maine’s Electricity Customers Will Pay Higher Rates in 2019—The prices apply to customers of Central Maine Power who receive the “standard offer,” a fixed rate approved by the state utilities’ regulator each year as default electricity option. The prices are set by a competitive billing process. The price for CMP’s small business and residential customers receiving the standard offer rose 13.7 percent to 9 cents per kilowatt hour, compared with the current price of 7.92 cents per kilowatt hour. The nearly 14 percent increase is lower than this year’s 18 percent hike. The commission’s chairman, Mark Vannoy, said that amounts to a 6.7 percent increase in the total bill for an average residential customer, including energy, transmission and distribution charges in 2019. [Read more here](#).

Nuclear Wins Big in Clean Energy Competition—And Not Just the Milestone Nuclear Plant—Connecticut’s search for more clean energy power favored nuclear, awarding proposals from the only two nuclear plants in the region. Together, the two plants account for some 1,256 MW of power—more than 82% of the overall bids accepted. Among the project types not selected were five land-based wind projects – all in Maine, which is likely to be more open for business with a Democratic governor about to take over from Republican Paul LePage, who had placed a moratorium on wind projects. [Read the full article at this link](#).

In Other News...

Maine Composting Companies Forced to Look Elsewhere for Raw Material—Maine companies are bringing in food waste from out of state as the market for household and commercial composting slows here. To read the full article, [follow this link](#).

Bath’s Public Composting Bins Have Kept 15 Tons of Solid Waste Out of Its Landfills—In March of 2017, the city contracted with Garbage to Garden to place a public composting bin in a well-visited public place. Any Bath resident can dump organic, compostable material in the six bins at no cost. In the two years the program has been available, 15 tons of organic waste has been collected and composted. [Read more here](#).

BikeMaine Six-Year Economic Benefit Tops \$3 Million—The event, organized by the Bicycle Coalition of Maine, brings riders to a different region of the state each September for a week-long tour. Ride director MaryBeth Luce said the 2019 event is already close to selling out, and more than 75% of participants who have registered are from outside of Maine, “which shows how excited people are to visit our coastal communities”. [Follow this link to read more](#).

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
 - Download the RECYCLOPEDIA ([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!
- Have you noticed the tire pressure light coming on rather often lately in your car? I have! That's because newer cars have a tire pressure monitor built in for each wheel that constantly measures the inflation of that tire, and the colder temperatures have more of an effect on tire pressure. Cold weather may cause your tires to be dangerously underinflated and significantly reduce your fuel efficiency. Take that light seriously and add air to your tires when you see it but be sure to only fill your tires to the designated pressure found in your owner's manual. If you don't have that sensor in your car, be sure to check your tire pressure regularly.

Did you know...

...that Mainers produced 632 tons of food waste a DAY last year? —almost a pound of apple cores, rotten vegetables, spoiled yogurt and meat trimmings a day for every person in the state.

...that three quarters of Maine's food waste goes to landfills or incinerators, and less than a quarter of food waste in Maine is diverted to compost?

... only 5 percent of Maine's food waste is captured as edible food distributed to the hungry?

...that Vermont and Massachusetts have laws that require large-scale producers like restaurants, colleges and hospitals to divert organic waste from incinerators and landfills?

...that the first BikeMaine tour in 2013 was held in Washington County, and had 251 riders with an estimated \$235,000 economic impact?

...that the BikeMaine tour also issues grants to previous locations of the tour? Previous grants include funding a 5k bike/pedestrian loop in Skowhegan, building connections from a school to mountain biking trails in Bethel, and strengthening bike safety measures in Kingfield.

...that some car dealers are now using nitrogen to inflate tires because the nitrogen molecules are larger than oxygen molecules? Air seepage is reduced through the tire walls and where the tire meets the rim. Any moisture in the tire is also eliminated, which can affect inflation.

...that you can recycle Keurig k-cups through a company called Grounds to Grow On? The [Company's Brochure can be found here](#). But please, do not recycle them through your curbside collection!

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.