



## Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 7, Issue 2, February 2019 – Falmouth, Maine

- 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](mailto:kdarling@falmouthme.org) with your thoughts and suggestions.

## Calendar of Local Green Events-February 2019

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date/Time/Location</b>	<b>Description</b>
<p><b>Clean Water Rule Citizen’s Hearing</b></p>  <p><b>Natural Resources Council of Maine</b></p>	<p>February 7 6:00-8:00pm Rhines Auditorium Portland Public Library 5 Monument Way, Portland</p>	<p>In a state like Maine, we rely on clean water for drinking, tourism, and our outdoor recreation economy. But the EPA has proposed scrapping the Clean Water Rule, a protection under the Clean Water Act that safeguards our streams and wetlands. The proposed replacement, dubbed the “Dirty Water Rule,” would jeopardize the drinking water our families rely on and undermine the streams and wetlands that filter pollution, provide fish and wildlife habitat, and absorb floodwaters. Learn more about the Clean Water Rule and how it benefits Maine. Join the Natural Resources Council of Maine, Maine Lakes Society, Maine Council of Trout Unlimited, and Maine Rivers for a citizen’s hearing during the EPA public comment period. You’ll hear from a variety of speakers about the importance of protecting our waterways and have an opportunity to speak out yourself.</p>
<p><b>Snowshoe with the Falmouth Land Trust and Maine Audubon</b></p>  <p><b>FALMOUTH LAND TRUST</b> EST. 1981</p>	<p>February 9 11:00-12:30pm Maine Audubon 20 Gilsland Farm Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>The Great Maine Outdoor Weekend is a series of events led by outdoor oriented organizations and companies to celebrate the how, where, and what of being active outside in Maine. Their goal is to connect our friends and neighbors with the natural world, to promote fun, physical activity, and good health. Join the Falmouth Land Trust for their 2nd annual snowshoe hike. They are happy to be teaming up with Maine Audubon as part of the Great Maine Outdoor Weekend. Participants will meet at Gilsland Farm at 11:00 and enjoy an easy hike along the trails, make new friends and share a cup of hot cocoa to warm up. Bring the whole family along for this free hike on a favorite Falmouth Land Trust property.</p>

<p><b>Maine Home &amp; Remodeling Show</b></p> 	<p>February 16 10:00-5:00pm Cross Insurance Arena 1 Civic Center Sq., Portland</p>	<p>Visit over 180 exhibitor booths showcasing the latest products and services for your home in areas such as building and remodeling, kitchens and bathrooms, outdoor living, green living, décor and more. Bring your shopping bags for the Artisan Marketplace where you can find unique crafts, gifts and specialty foods. Take advantage of their Seminar Series and learn about a variety of topics that can help you save money and time. And don't miss our 15th Annual "Meet the Chefs" Cooking Series featuring some of Maine's top chefs. Learn new recipes, great cooking tips and taste their culinary creations! <a href="#">Learn more here.</a></p>
<p><b>A Change is Gonna Come— Maine Energy &amp; Environmental Policy in 2019</b></p> 	<p>February 28 7:30-10:00am Governor Hill Mansion 136 State St, Augusta</p>	<p>As a new administration begins its work, what will be its priorities? Will clean energy development remain a focus? Will it tackle transportation with 21st century solutions? What first steps will be taken to accomplish these goals? What does the future hold? During Governor-Elect Mills' campaign, there was a clear focus on climate change initiatives, growing clean energy resources, and strategic electrification of the transportation sector, among other related goals. More event information <a href="#">can be found at this link.</a></p>
<p><b>Maine Clean Energy Day</b></p> 	<p>February 28 11:00am-5:00pm Maine State House 210 State St., Augusta</p>	<p>The Northeast Clean Energy Council and NECEC Institute (NECEC) is a regional non-profit clean energy business, policy and innovation organization whose mission is to accelerate the region's clean energy economy to global leadership by building an active community of stakeholders and a world-class cluster of companies. Maine Clean Energy Day will showcase the growing vitality of the clean energy industry and the importance of consistent policy support as a means of catalyzing the state and our region's economy. Questions? Contact NECEC Membership Manager Brennan Molina, <a href="mailto:bmolina@necec.org">bmolina@necec.org</a>. NECEC's Clean Energy Days are open to NECEC members only. Please contact Brennan if you'd like to join NECEC.</p>

## Energy News

**Canadian Company Finalized Purchase of Area Hydroelectric Stations**— The four were among 63 around the U.S., bought by Ontario Power Generation from a New Jersey company on Nov. 28. The purchase price was \$298 million and was subject to customary working capital and other adjustments on closing. Ontario Power announced in August it had an agreement to acquire Eagle Creek Renewable Energy LLC, an operator of small hydropower facilities in the U.S. Read the full [Read the full story here.](#)

**CMP Asks PUC to Dismiss Jackman Residents' Complaint**—At issue is the Dec. 13 complaint filed by 10 Jackman residents asking PUC to investigate what they said was a "surge in power outages for the Jackman area from 2013 to present" and to "hold CMP accountable to provide reliable service at a reasonable price for the residents of Jackman and surrounding communities." Their complaint alleges that "CMP's deteriorating liability and frequent lengthening outage periods are due to a diminished workforce, lack of parts inventory in trucks, old brittle and outdated wires and equipment, moving their power source to Wyman (which effectively doubled the distance and increases the risk of storm damage interruptions by 200%), and a lack of proactive planning." For the full story, [click this link.](#)

**South Portland Forming Municipal Coalition to Back Pro-Solar Legislation, Energy-Saving Construction**— Some Maine towns and cities, including Falmouth, are joining forces to push for state legislation that would promote solar power projects and energy-saving building construction, and they're hoping to find a more receptive State House with a Democratic controlled Legislature and Gov. Janet Mills in charge. [Read more here.](#)

**Bowdoinham Rep. Wants to Replace CMP, Emera Maine with a 'Customer-Owned Utility'**—The plan would require Central Maine Power and Emera Maine to sell all transmission and distribution assets to the proposed Maine Power Delivery Authority. Bill supporters said the Authority would allow the use of low-interest revenue bonds to make the multibillion-dollar purchase, allowing the new consumer-owned utility to provide electricity to most Maine residents at lower rates than those charged by the two-investor owned utilities. [Follow this link for the full story.](#)

**As Maine Debates 145-Mile Electric Line, Energy Giant with Billions at Stake is Absent**—As Maine regulators are deciding whether to approve the construction of a \$1 billion transmission line across much of Western Maine, the Canadian hydroelectric utility poised to make billions of dollars from the project has been absent from the process. This has left both opponents and supporters of the line arguing about how much available energy the utility must send through the completed line, and whether that energy will help fulfill the mission of the project. [Read more here.](#)

## In Other News...

**Large Maine Salmon Farm to Prioritize Sustainability**— Nordic Aquafarms plans to build an inland salmon farm capable of producing more than 60 million pounds of fish per year in Belfast. It has called the project one of the largest of its kind. The farm says it will seek certification from the Aquaculture Stewardship Council as a sustainable seafood producer. Read more by [following this link.](#)

**Augusta Considers Fining Nonresidents Who Use City's Recycling Collection Bins**—The proposed ordinance specifying possible fines for any non-resident caught putting items into Augusta recycling collection bins is the latest change to the city's recycling program in response to what officials said is improper use of recycling bins. Councilors already voted to eliminate two of the City's four recycling drop-off locations, the only two that are available for use around the clock seven days a week.

**As Fiberight Plant Nears Completion, Municipal Representatives Seek Clear Communication**—While the news offered a glimmer of hope in a schedule that has been delayed three times—pushing the opening date a full year past its initial projection—representatives on the Municipal Review Committee still voiced frustrations with the company putting out mixed messages to the public. However, officials maintain that the company's waste process facility in Hampden is on track to begin accepting garbage and recycling from Maine towns in April. [Full story here.](#)

**Falmouth Will Take a Look into Regional, Automated Trash Pick-Up**—An informal survey conducted at the Election Day 2018 shows that 60 percent of respondents are satisfied with the way residential trash and recyclables are currently collected. Moving towards an automated system is thought to be more efficient, and the impact of moving to automation on the municipal budget and individual households is worthy of an additional look given the 526 residents who responded to the survey only represented a small sample of total residents. [Read more here.](#)

## Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

There is a difference between **food waste** and food scraps! Make sure to inventory your refrigerator and pantries *before* heading to the grocery store. But of course, be sure you are composting your food scraps and any food waste you may have. Here are some tips to help preserve food in the fridge:

1. Keep meat uncut and wrapped until ready to eat—this will keep meat fresher and avoid contaminating other food items. Once opened, place meat in an airtight container
2. Keep fruits and vegetables separate—they give off different gases that can cause other items to deteriorate
3. Evenly place food items on shelves—and do not over fill the refrigerator. This will allow airflow to reach all items and keep the temperature consistent throughout the refrigerator
4. Avoid washing fresh produce—before storing in your refrigerator. The dampness can increase mold growth
5. Hot food items should be cooled first—storing hot foods increases the temperature in the unit and the risk of food spoilage. Ensure all cooked food is wrapped securely or placed in an airtight container
6. Freeze small quantities of food at a time—this will help freeze the items quickly
7. Store washed fresh herbs in zip lock bags—and place them in the freezer
8. Keep frequently used items at the front—this will reduce the loss of cool air when opening the fridge door

## Did you know...

...that according to the U.S. Department of Energy, you can save about 10 percent per year on your heating bills by turning your thermostat down 10 to 15 degrees for eight hours each day? Programmable thermostats make this an easy thing to do.

...that exhaust fans in your kitchen and bathroom pull the hot air that raises to your ceilings outside? Make sure you turn them off when you're done using them, or else it will cost you!

...that there is a small switch on ceiling fans that reverse the way the blades rotate? Counter-clockwise will push hot air up in the summer and clockwise will push hot air back down. I recently made this adjustment, and it works wonders!

...that about 13 percent of your energy bill is likely to be attributed to running your refrigerator?

...that keeping your refrigerator clean inside improves air circulation and allows the unit to run more efficiently? Also, vacuuming or dusting the coils every few months helps extend the life of the motor.

**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.