



Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

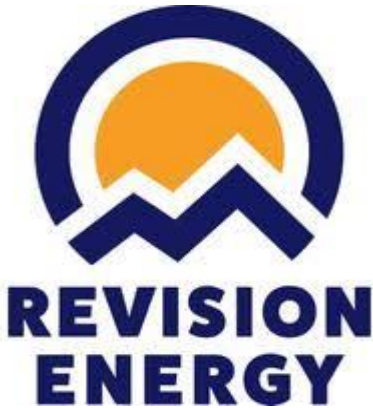
“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 7, Issue 3, March 2019 – Falmouth, Maine

- 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.
- Know of any energy or sustainability events not listed in the calendar below? Please reach out to Kimberly and she’ll add them in!

Calendar of Local Green Events–March 2019

Event	Date/Time/Location	Description
<p>Snowshoe/Hike with the Natural Resources Council of Maine</p>  <p>Natural Resources Council of Maine</p>	<p>March 9 1:00-3:00pm Effie L Berry Conservation Area Trailhead Coos Ln., Hallowell</p>	<p>Join NRCM for their snowshoe/hike through Howard Hill in Hallowell. The 164-acre Howard Hill is the scenic forested backdrop to the Maine State House, and one of Augusta’s largest remaining undeveloped parcels of land. With support from Kennebec Land Trust (KLT) members, private foundations, Maine businesses, and the Land for Maine’s Future program, KLT and the City of Augusta are permanently protecting this land. For more event information, follow this link.</p>
<p>Ocean Acidification, Climate Change, and You</p>  <p>Friends of Casco Bay Casco BAYKEEPER</p>	<p>March 18 5:30-6:30pm Portland Public Library 5 Monument Way, Portland</p>	<p>Climate change is affecting the health of Casco Bay faster than anyone could have predicted. Warming temperatures and increasing acidity threaten the ocean and the livelihoods of those who depend on the sea. Research is showing that changes in our coastal waters from climate change are putting lobstering, clamming, and aquaculture at risk. Friends of Casco Bay invites you to attend Ocean Acidification, Climate Change, and You, a free event, open to all. Staff scientist Mike Doan will talk about the warning signs seen in their monitoring data. Casco Baykeeper Ivy Frignoca will share some of the impacts to marine species and how Mainers are working together to respond to these threats. They look forward to your questions following the presentation. Healthy marine waters are vital to Maine’s economy and quality of life. This is such an important issue that they are hosting this presentation at three locations in the coming weeks: Portland, South Portland, and Brunswick. Visit this website to learn more.</p>

Solar in Maine 2019: Cheaper & Cleaner than Fossil Fuels



March 19
6:30-8:00pm
Thomas Memorial Library
6 Scott Dyer Rd., Cape Elizabeth

Join ReVision to learn how solar combined with advanced clean technology is powering Maine's energy transformation. A recent MIT study shows that solar costs have dropped 99% over the past 40 years, making solar electricity cost-competitive with natural gas-fired electricity from the grid. Today, Maine homeowners and businesses are saving money and cutting pollution by using solar electricity combined with heat pumps to replace oil and gas for heating, and solar combined with electric vehicle charging to eliminate gasoline and harmful tailpipe emissions. Federal and state incentives are also making battery storage a more affordable backup energy source to fill the gaps when New England's powerful solar resource (just 10% less than Florida's) is not strong enough to meet real-time energy demand. Contact Jill McLaughlin at jmclaughlin@revisionenergy.com or 207-221-6342 for more event information.

Falmouth Business Forum



March 21
6:00-7:00pm
TideSmart Global
380 US-1, Falmouth

Join the Falmouth Economic Improvement Committee for their 5th Falmouth Business Forum which will feature presentations about the value of energy efficiencies for business. The forum will feature a presentation from Efficiency Maine on its Commercial and Industrial Prescriptive Incentive Program, a Falmouth business case study on how businesses can improve their bottom lines through energy efficiency measures followed by Q&A. Tours of the Net+ Viridescent House will also be offered at the end of the program for those interested! Contact Kimberly Darling, at kdarling@falmouhtme.org for more information.

Maine Sustainability and Water Conference



March 28
Augusta Civic Center
76 Community Dr., Augusta

The conference was launched in 1994 by the Senator George J. Mitchell Center at the University of Maine with a primary focus on one of Maine's central challenges- the future of its water resources. Originally designed to provide a collaborative nexus for water resource professionals, researchers, consultants, citizens, students, regulators, and planners to exchange information and present new findings on water resource issues in Maine, the conference has grown to include participation from a broad audience of close to 400 participants from across the state. The conference's focus has expanded to encompass a wide range of sustainability challenges facing Maine, including issues related to climate change, energy futures, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism, and municipal planning. [Visit this site for more information.](#)

Energy News

Fiberight \$70M Waste-to-Energy Plant Finally Ramping Up—the \$70 million, 144,000-square-foot waste-to-energy plant in Hampden is expected to convert 80% of the waste it takes in, either into renewable energy or recycling. Using a high-tech process, once it's fully operational it will sort, recycle, reuse and refine 180,000 tons of municipal trash per year from 115 municipalities. Trash bags will be machine-shredded and the waste will go through a series of screens and be separated and channeled according to size and type. What will come out is clean cellulose, bio-gas, plastics and engineered fuel, metals, waste paper and corrugated cardboard. There is also a plan for turning plastic into fuel. For the full story, [follow this link](#).

Mills, 2 Environmental Groups Back CMP's \$1Billion Western Maine Transmission Project—Gov. Janet Mills and two environmental groups are signing on to Central Maine Power's bid to build a controversial new transmission line through western Maine's forests. That significantly broadens the coalition of interests supporting the project, but the deal is also drawing fire from other environmental groups, grassroots opponents and some renewable energy developers in Maine. [Read the full story here](#).

Tremont Solar Project Latest in Coastal Enterprises Inc. (CEI), Nature Conservancy Funding Collaboration—the new solar array on Tremont's capped landfill will provide 100% of the Mount Desert Island town's municipal electricity and was built with help from an impact investment program that's a collaboration between CEI and the Nature Conservancy. Under the loan structure, the Nature Conservancy makes small zero-interest loans to CEI to include in its lending package to solar developers, which allows CEI to charge a lower interest rate to the developer. The developer then passes the lower cost to customers in the form of more attractive power purchase agreements. [Follow this link to read more](#).

PUC Threatens Sanctions if CMP Fails to Resolve Customer Service Problems—Maine Public Utilities Commission warned Central Maine Power Co. it could face a \$500,000 fine and other sanctions if the AVANGRID-owned utility did not immediately address ongoing customer service problems. In a letter sent by email to CMP President and CEO Douglas Herling, Derek D. Davidson, director of the PUC's Consumer Assistance and Safety Division, outlined three concerns that he said needed to be addressed immediately to avoid possible PUC-imposed penalties: 1. The number of new and existing customers that are not receiving monthly bills. 2. Failure to refer customers who've fallen behind on their bills to the Efficiency Maine Trust, which has a program designed to help such customers enroll in a payment plan with the utility and which gives them information about energy-saving options along with a free offer for a do-it-yourself electricity-use reduction kit. 3. The company's "continued slow response to customer complaints." [Read the full story here](#).

In Other News...

BikeMaine Route will Span Waterville Area and Midcoast—the 2019 BikeMaine route will begin and end at Waterville's growing hotspot, Head of Falls. The "Coastal Connections" route, recently announced by the Bicycle Coalition of Maine, will cover 327 miles, with loops that include stops in Hope, Damariscotta, Rockland and Belfast. The ride, which takes place in September, is sold out, and 450 bikers from around the country take part. This is the seventh year for the ride, which has pumped \$3 million into the state's economy in rides that have spanned most of Maine's regions. [For the full story, follow this link](#).

Maine Could be Among First in U.S. to Ban Plastic Bags Statewide—twenty towns and cities across Maine have enacted either outright bans or fees on plastic shopping bags and at least a half-dozen more are considering local ordinances. Many of those policies were approved in the two years since state lawmakers last considered a bill to ban plastic bags. [For more, follow this link](#).

Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

Are you new to the electric vehicle world, or considering making the switch with the purchase of your next vehicle? Truth is, this kind of cold weather has brought some unique hurdles for EV owners. Fortunately, there are some easy steps you can take to mitigate those challenges.

Here are some electric vehicle tips for winter weather:

- 1. Charging**—if you have an enclosed garage at home where you can charge your EV, do so. By charging your car indoors, you can prevent ice buildup on the vehicle and keep the battery warmer. EV batteries are like humans—they are most comfortable at 70 degrees and a warmer battery will garner more driving miles.
- 2. Preconditioning**—you can do better by preconditioning the cabin before you begin your trip. Most EVs allow you to schedule this in advance and it has two benefits. One, you get to climb into a warm car on a cold day! No waiting for the heater to warm up or the seat heaters to kick in. Two, your battery warms up to its optimal operating temperature. You get to drive farther more comfortably—what's not to love? By preconditioning while plugged in at home, you'll leave for work 100% charged with a warm pack and cabin. If you can't precondition your cabin, use the seat warmers over the cabin heat if range is issue. The seat warmers generally use less energy than the cabin heater and can be felt immediately.
- 3. Planning**—make sure your vehicle has its standard level-one charging cord on board in case you need to stop for an emergency charge. This is one area where EVs have a clear advantage; you can recharge your car from any standard wall outlet in a pinch. And be sure to carry warm clothing, a bit of food, and a phone in case your car becomes immobilized—just as you should in a gas car during extreme weather.
- 4. Driving**—lastly, reducing your speed in hazardous driving conditions not only makes for safer driving, it also increases your EV's range. In addition, EVs have the benefit of being able to carefully control torque from a standing start, compared to gas cars that have zero torque at zero RPM and must be revved up to start moving. With slick, icy roads, it's much easier to avoid spinning out from a standing start in an EV and easier to slowly climb a hill. If you try going slowly up a hill in a gas car, you're likely to stall the engine.

Did you know...

...that the economic impact of BikeMaine, has increased every year? Last year's ride, in the St. John Valley of Aroostook County, infused \$742,000 into the state's economy, representing a 17% increase from 2017.

...that according to the EPA, the United States generates about 250 million tons of waste each year, with about a third of this recycled and composted?

...that until recently, China had been taking about 40 percent of US paper, plastic and other recyclables?

... that all cars, both gas and electric, use more energy in cold weather?

...Falmouth will be partnering with Cumberland and Yarmouth to host another **WindowDressers Community Build** in November? Feeling some drafts from your windows? We can help! Visit www.windowdressers.org

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.