







Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 7, Issue 6, June 2019 – Falmouth, Maine

- Despite all the damp, cold and rainy days lately, summer is just around the corner! How do you gear up for the change in seasons while being sustainable?
- 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- June 2019

Event	Date/Time/Location	Description
<p>Launch of One Climate Future Planning Process</p> 	<p>June 10 10:30-11:30am Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Cohen Center 350 Commercial St., Portland</p>	<p>The Cities of Portland and South Portland are working together to create a climate action and adaptation plan called “One Climate Future”. Join them as they launch the planning process. It will be a great opportunity to learn more about the plan and about opportunities to take climate action in Portland and South Portland. More information can be found here.</p>
<p>Highland Lake Association’s Buffer ‘Blitz’ Workshop</p> 	<p>June 13 5:00-7:00pm Cornerstone Church 48 Cottage Rd., Windham</p>	<p>This event is tailored toward living on or near a lake, but we all live in a watershed and everyone can benefit from enhancing their landscaping! The event is free and open to the public. Come learn how plants maintain a healthy buffer and improves nearby water quality, enhances wildlife habitat and increases property values. There will be local experts to interact with and learn from. For more information, follow this link.</p>
<p>2019 Northeast Campus Sustainability Consortium Conference</p> 	<p>June 17-18 University of Southern Maine Abromson Community Education Center</p>	<p>This two-day conference will be an engaging mix of presentation sessions, round table discussions and informal networking opportunities all about sustainability in higher education. Our theme this year, Trends in Northeast Sustainability Challenges, will examine the issues universities and colleges currently and anticipate facing in the Northeast region. Some topics to be explored might include: Scope 3 Reductions; Waste Management; Sustainable Food Sourcing; Net Zero Energy Building and Strategic Planning & Implementation. For more information and to register, click here.</p>

<p>Building Better with Less Risk</p>  <p>passivhaus MAINE</p>	<p>June 19 8:00am-4:00pm Portland Country Club. 11 Foreside Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>Building better means greater customer satisfaction; building science means increased durability and decreased liability. This workshop will connect all the dots between building science, quality, durability, and risk management. All proceeds go to benefit passivhausMAINE. To register, click here.</p>
<p>Dig Deeper Pasture Walk</p> 	<p>June 19 4:30-5:30pm Wolfe's Neck Farm 184 Burnett Rd., Freeport</p>	<p>Joe Grady, Wolfe Neck Center's Senior Director of Programs, will walk groups through the pasture as they learn how grazing management and regenerative agriculture can capture carbon in the soil. Come learn how healthy soil can cool the planet. View the Farm's website here, and learn more about all their work, their events, and their mission: transforming the relationship with farming and food for a healthier planet.</p>
<p>NRCM's 60th Anniversary Celebration, Cushing</p>  <p>Natural Resources Council of Maine</p>	<p>June 29 1:00-4:00pm Langlais Sculpture Preserve 576 River Road Cushing, ME 04563</p>	<p>The Natural Resources Council of Maine invites you to celebrate 60 years protecting the nature of Maine! Through member support, NRCM is safeguarding Maine's land, air, waters, and wildlife in 2019 and in 2079 and beyond, just as NRCM's founders did in 1959. Celebrate with them at this multi-generational event. View 12 larger-than-life stunning sculptures and see Bernard Langlais' workshop and homestead. Enjoy refreshments, kids' activities, live music, and celebratory words by NRCM CEO Lisa Pohlmann. To RSVP for the event, follow this link</p>

Energy News

Maine Company Launches Renewable Energy System to Power Remote Communities— Maine-based Ocean Renewable Power Co. has already powered more than 30 percent of the remote Alaskan community of Igiugig, but with the launch of a new marine renewable energy system, it wants to increase its current reach and spread to isolated and indigenous communities around the world. The RivGen Power System, built at Brunswick Landing, is a fully submerged turbine generator that harnesses the power of river currents to produce energy. [Follow this link for the full story.](#)

Maine House Passes Ban on Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling—On June 3, the Maine House of Representatives passed a bill to ban offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration in Maine's waters. The bill, LD 955, is sponsored by Representative Michael Devin (D-Newcastle) and will now head to the Maine Senate for a vote. New York and New Hampshire have passed similar bills, and Massachusetts is considering one. For more, [follow this link.](#)

Developer Says Burying Power Line Through Maine Woods is Not Practical— Central Maine Power told Maine regulators the project cost would increase from \$950 million to \$1.6 billion if it were required to bury the line. Environmental review of the project is now before the state's Department of Environmental Protection and its Land Use Planning Commission. To read more, [click here](#).

In Other News...

Residents in Four Communities Will Soon Find out Whether they're Recycling Right or "Wish-Cycling"— Falmouth, Scarborough, South Portland and Windham have hired summer interns in hopes of teaching residents what to put in the recycling and what to leave out. A group of about 10 interns will start patrolling those communities the week of June 17, sticking colored tags on bins to grade residents' sorting performance. Green means a bin is good to go. Yellow means a few items don't belong. Red means the load is too contaminated to pick up. For the full story, [follow this link](#).

Using Maine Kelp to Stem the Tide on Ocean Plastics—Maine kelp farmers and scientists are working to confront the issue of plastic pollution together, and they're discovering hopeful results from an abundant, sustainable resource. For the full story, [click here](#).

Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

Improper recycling will start costing taxpayers 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.
- Grab a Do/Don't recycling list at Town Hall, Public Works, the Transfer Station, and Community Programs at Mason-Motz.
- 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!

Did you know.....

...the Town of Falmouth pays \$70.50 per ton for municipal solid waste to be processed at ecomaine's waste to energy facility, and that costs for recycling tonnages have always been free?

...that this free ride for recycling is coming to an end?

...that acceptable contamination levels for recycling in global markets have historically been upwards of 20-30%, and now are as low as 10%?

...that if Falmouth residents recycle incorrect items, it will start costing taxpayers? Please recycle only the right things! Not everything can be recycled!

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.