

Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy and Sustainability News, You Can Use”
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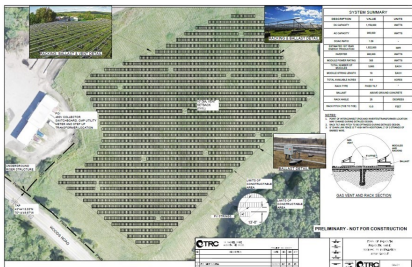
REAC Says Goodbye to Kimberly Darling

REAC’s staff liaison, Kimberly Darling, has accepted a new job opportunity and is leaving her position as Falmouth’s Energy and Sustainability Coordinator. Kimberly came to Falmouth as a USM intern in February 2013. After completing her internship, she worked part-time until her position was made full-time in July 2015. For the past five years, Kimberly has been involved in many innovative projects including LED streetlights conversion, a solar farm at the landfill, converting lights in Town buildings, developing a plastic bag ordinance, and so much more. Every January, she has organized and operated a successful multi-town Energy Fair. As a team player, and in addition to her regular job duties, Kimberly also assisted with Town Council meetings and the Annual Volunteer Banquet, organized Very Merry Falmouth events, and supported other events by coordinating zero waste initiatives. REAC wishes the best of luck to Kimberly as she pursues new opportunities. She will be missed.



While Kimberly leaves big shoes to fill, the Town is committed to retaining this position and a candidate search will begin soon. The interim contact for any sustainability/REAC questions is Theo Holtwijk, Director of Long-Range Planning, 699-5340, tholtwijk@falmouthme.org. Please contact Theo if you have any questions.

Energy News



Falmouth Solar Array

The Falmouth solar array is fast becoming a reality after years of work by the Falmouth Recycling and Energy Committee (REAC), the Town Council,

pumps, installing solar arrays, installing electric vehicle charging stations, and initiating a number of other measures to save money and to preserve and protect Falmouth’s environment for future generations.

LED Streetlights

Falmouth has installed a number of LED streetlights to replace outdated and inefficient bulbs. These more efficient LED streetlights have resulted in substantially lower electrical costs.

and Town staff. It’s an exciting time because once installed the solar array will substantially offset the Town’s energy costs, all while lowering the carbon footprint of the Town. As you may know, the solar array will be installed on the surface of the Falmouth Transfer Station, thus utilizing unused space land. A contractor has been hired to obtain all necessary permitting, and to eventually install the solar array, with a target date of Fall 2020.

Composting

If you have not tried composting your food waste, it’s a great way to reduce your overall waste stream and save money on trash bags! All you need to do to get started is collect your vegetable food waste in a closed container. Then, take the waste to the transfer station, where the food waste will be turned into rich compost! Alternatively, Falmouth Public Works (for a small fee) provides a home compost container that will turn your vegetable waste into rich compost you can put in gardens.



Falmouth Green Business Recognition

REAC wants to recognize Falmouth businesses that have made laudable efforts to conduct their businesses while saving energy and reducing their carbon footprint. Individual businesses will receive written recognition from REAC, which will be published in this newsletter and *The Falmouth Focus*. Falmouth businesses are utilizing heat

In Other News...



Tree City USA Designation

It was quite fitting that during Maine Arbor Week, the Town of Falmouth received its formal recognition as a new member of the Tree City USA community. The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry provided Falmouth with a plaque along with street signage to award the Town on its efforts in 2019. The Arbor Day Foundation plaque is proudly displayed at the Town’s Public Works Department in recognition of becoming a Tree City USA

community. In addition, new street signs were provided and installed, entering Falmouth on Route 1 and on Route 100.

Although the planned Tree City USA event for 2020 was cancelled due to Covid-19, the Town moved forward with tree plantings planned for year two of the Tree City USA program.

On June 3, the Public Works Department installed three Eastern White Pines in the island on US Route 1 near Route 88. The white pine was designated Maine’s official state tree in 1945. This planting also marks the commemoration of the State’s bicentennial this year. The State Bicentennial Commission encouraged the planting of these tree groves as a gift to future generations. Each white pine represents a century in Falmouth's history: past, present, and future. When Falmouth marks the State's 300th anniversary these small trees will have grown to towering pines.



Living Lawns Education Campaign Continues

Living Lawns is an effort by the Falmouth Conservation Commission, in Collaboration with the Energy and Sustainability Office, as well as the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District, to provide lawn care tips to homeowners and decrease pesticide use. Weekly tips are posted on Facebook and in the bi-monthly *Falmouth Focus* newsletter. Learn more about Living Lawns at: <https://www.falmouthme.org/environmental-initiatives/pages/living-lawns-education-campaign>

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.