

Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)


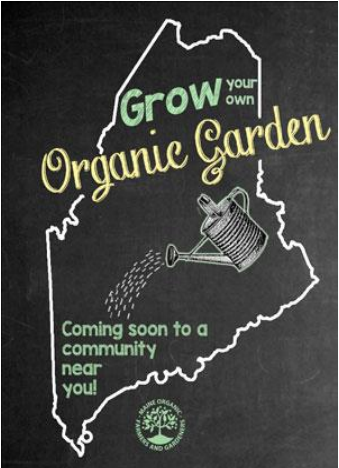

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 4, Issue 4 April 2016 – Falmouth, Maine

- Have you had an energy audit or assessment done through Efficiency Maine or independently? Drop us a line at reac@falmouthme.org and share your home energy story with us!
- Any ideas or suggestions on how Falmouth can be greener? More sustainable? Use less energy? We’d love to hear your thoughts, and ways in which *you* live sustainably. Give your Energy and Sustainability Coordinator a shout at kdarling@falmouthme.org with your suggestions!
- Have a question about home energy? Drop us a line, we’re happy to help find you answers.






Shopping Bag Ordinance—Effective April 1st

The six largest businesses in town (Hannaford, Shaw’s, Staples, Goodwill, Rite-Aid, and Walmart) will be charging 5 cents for new paper and plastic shopping bags. Bring your own bag and save your nickels!

Calendar of Local Green Events—April 2016

Event	Date/Time/Location	Description
<p>The 46th Annual Bangor Home Show & The 47th Annual Portland Home Show</p> 	<p>April 1—1:00pm-8:00pm April 2—10:00am-8:00pm April 3—10:00am-5:00pm</p> <p>Bangor Cross Insurance Center 515 Main St., Bangor Home Show Poster</p> <p>Portland Home Show Portland Expo 239 Park Ave., Portland April 8-10 (same hours as above)</p>	<p>The Great Bangor Home Show attracts up to 20,000 people each year with over 300 exhibitor booths—it’s the third largest attended show in New England! Over 200 booths will be showcased at the Portland Home Show. These shows are truly a one stop shop for “everything for the home” and “bring together the region’s finest builders, remodelers and local businesses”.</p> <p>Bangor Home Show Coupon</p> <p>Portland Home Show Coupon</p>
<p>Grow Your Own Organic Garden</p> 	<p>April 6 6:00-9:00pm Cumberland Community Education Greely High School (Rm. 151) 303 Main St., Cumberland</p> 	<p>Are you concerned about rising food costs? Unsure what the term “certified organic” means? Interested in learning how to grow your own vegetables in a sustainable manner? If so—join the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardens Association in this evening educational course with topics covering: the basic of soil science, composting methods, the principles of crop rotation, as well as weed and insect control measures. For more information, and other locations around the state visit this site.</p>

<p>Cleantech Open 2016 Maine Kick-off and Networking Reception</p> 	<p>April 7 5:00-7:00pm Think Tank CoWorking 533 Congress St., Portland</p>	<p>Join E2Tech for food and local brews while learning about the Cleantech Open and networking with Maine business leaders and entrepreneurs at this April event. At this briefing you will hear from Cleantech Open staff and learn about how the program can help you grow your cleantech venture, expand your businesses' services to young companies, or mentor entrepreneurs looking to solve our biggest environmental and energy challenges. Admission is free, but please RSVP here.</p>
<p>Portland Home and Business Energy Fair</p> 	<p>April 9 10:00am-3:00pm Ocean Ave. Elementary School 150 Ocean Ave., Portland</p>	<p>Come learn about clean energy options for your home and business at this year's series of Home and Business Energy Fairs. Information on solar energy, pellet boilers, heat pumps, energy efficiency, weatherization, insulation, ventilation, biofuels, financing and so much more is offered at these events. There are over 20 vendors at each event, which are free to the public. Children's activities along with door prizes will be offered. For more information, and for a list of exhibitors, visit this link.</p>
<p>Great Maine Bike Swap</p> 	<p>April 10 10:00am-1:00pm UMaine—New Balance Student Recreation Center</p> <p>May 1 10:00am-1:00pm USM—Sullivan Recreation and Fitness Complex</p>	<p>The <i>Great Maine Bike Swaps</i> offer a great way to buy used bicycles at an affordable price. You can also sell the bikes cluttering your garage or basement and turn them into cash. At the swaps, you can chose from hundreds of bikes, including hybrids, road bikes, mountain bikes, children's bikes, and more. You'll be more sustainable by getting a gently used bike rather than buying a new one. For event details, follow this link.</p>
<p>Maine Indoor Air Quality and Energy Conference</p> 	<p>April 11-12 Holiday Inn By the Bay 88 Spring St., Portland Event Schedule</p>	<p>The Maine Indoor Air Quality and Energy Conference attracts a diverse range of professions who come together to share new and proven concepts for achieving safe, healthy and sustainable indoor environments. A variety of lectures, workshops and exhibits will offer important information and provide for discussions that will address professional development, scientific issues, trends, industry innovations and more. Fore more information, click here.</p>

<p>Moring Menu: Energy Islanding—Creating Microgrids for Grid Resiliency and on Site Generation</p> 	<p>April 14 7:30-9:00am Holiday Inn By the Bay 88 Spring St., Portland</p>	<p>Microgrids are a localized grouping of electricity sources that operate and connect to the centralized grid but can also disconnect and function autonomously. Join the Maine Real Estate & Development Association to learn from local energy experts as they discuss what microgrids are, how they function, and how they work with on site generation. For more event information, follow this link.</p>
<p>Speaker Series: Earth Day Film Festival 2016</p> 	<p>April 21 6:00-9:00pm Maine Audubon 20 Gilsland Farm Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>Maine Audubon's new monthly speaker series presents interactive lectures and discussions designed to stimulate conversation and concern around critical wildlife and habitat issues. Maine Audubon members will receive a discounted entry fee at this event. Come join them for an evening of food, drink and conservation films.</p>
<p>Earth Day Clean Up—Scarborough Marsh</p> 	<p>April 23 9:00am-12:00pm Scarborough Marsh</p>	<p>Give back to the Earth this year by helping Scarborough be a cleaner and healthier place for all its inhabitants and celebrate Earth Day by being part of the marsh cleanup. Visit Maine Audubon's website to learn more about how you can make a difference.</p>
<p>Green Neighbor Family Fest</p> 	<p>April 23 9:30am-12:00pm Deering High School 370 Stevens Ave., Portland</p>	<p>The <i>Urban Runoff</i> will lead into the <i>Green Neighbor Family Fest</i>, where families and community members will be able to take part in hands-on activities about water, learn steps to becoming a green neighbor and have an all-around good time! For a complete list of activities and vendor information, follow this link.</p>
<p>Green Streets Walk/Ride Day</p> 	<p>April 29 All day, everywhere!</p>	<p>The <i>Green Streets Initiative</i> is dedicated to celebrating and promoting the use of sustainable and active transportation. Walk/Ride Day occurs on the last Friday of every month. For more information on how you can be involved in this movement, click here.</p>

Energy News

Passivhaus Maine Goes to Germany April 19-24, 2016—passivhausMAINE is proud to be leading a group to the International Passive House Conference in Darmstadt, Germany. The delegation will get to meet officials who will illustrate the advantages to the city of using Passive House and the rationale behind the planning decisions as Germany approaches its goal of the Energiewende; a transition to primarily renewable energy sources enabled through energy efficiency. Read more [here](#).

Energy Panel's Dissent Darkens Prospects for Maine Solar Power—a proposal supported by utilities, Maine solar installers and environmental groups that would change how small-scale solar generators get paid has a narrow road to passage after a three-way divide in a committee vote Tuesday. After final drafting, the bill heads to the House, where it originated, with three additional different reports. To read the full article, follow [this link](#).

Biomass Industry's Appeal to Maine Lawmakers: Save Our Jobs—but, legislators are told that a bill aimed at saving the struggling power plants would cost electricity users millions and could threaten other occupations. To read the full article, follow [this link](#).

What's at Stake in Maine's Power Struggle Over Energy—the debate over energy policy has been raging for decades, but has intensified as Maine has become one of the most oil-dependent states—and the site of an insurgency of renewable energy initiatives. Earlier this month, President Obama unveiled his Clean Power Plan, but in Maine, it has rekindled disagreements in Augusta about how energy and environmental policies should or should not intertwine. To read more, follow [this link](#).

Wind Adds the Most Electric Generation Capacity in 2015, Followed by Natural Gas and Solar—wind, natural gas, and solar made up almost all new electric generation capacity in 2015, accounting for 41%, 30% and 26% of additions, respectively according to preliminary data. The data also shows a record amount of distributed solar photovoltaic capacity was added to rooftops through the country in 2015. The trend of wind, natural gas and solar additions making up most new capacity is likely to continue in 2016. To read more, and to see the data, follow [this link](#).

Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

❖ When doing laundry, wash on a cold cycle. Also, it's finally time to hang clothes out on the line! To be sustainable in every walk of life during the spring, follow the following links: [Home Tips](#), [Yard and Garden Tips](#), [At Work & School Tips](#), [Recreation Tips](#), [Community Tips](#)

Did you know...?

...that Maine's wood goes to: 50%, pulpwood for paper; 27.5%, saw logs for lumber/panels; 19.9%, biomass for electrical/energy, and 2.6%, pellets/firewood to heat homes?

...that owning a solar array increases the value of your home? Whether you plan on living in your home for decades, or just a few years, solar is a great investment with huge environmental and economic benefits.

...that even though you shouldn't recycle thin film curbside, you CAN recycle them at the grocery store?

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.