

## Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 3, Issue 9 September 2015 – Falmouth, Maine

- It’s hard to believe autumn is approaching, with winter not far behind. What are your plans to button up your home to prepare for the cooler days ahead?
- Have you had an energy audit or assessment done through Efficiency Maine or independently? Drop us a line at [reac@falmouthme.org](mailto: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](mailto:kdarling@falmouthme.org) with your suggestions.
- How do you keep the waste down while hosting a get-together or party? We’d love to hear your tips!

## Sustainability Tour—DENMARK

In late August, early September, a group of 14 Maine-based professionals visited Denmark to study climate change efforts in that country. These 14 individuals represented private, public, and legislative bodies. As a group, they studied the policies, practices and pitfalls of Denmark's ambitious climate change goals. What they found will help to inform and inspire positive change in all variety of energy sectors. Most importantly, the group learned that change begins with community engagement in the "why" of the calls to action. Local ownership is important in Denmark to the success of initiatives large and small.

*Written statement above from Erica Mazzeo—Curriculum Director for Falmouth Schools*



Photo credit Erica Mazzeo



Photo credit Tyler Kidder



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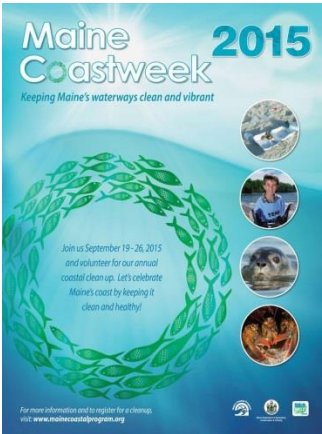
Photo credit Tyler Kidder




## Public Forum—Single-Use Shopping Bag Ordinance

The Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee has been diligently researching the impacts of single-use shopping bags from environmental, social, and economic perspectives. The committee has polled residents during the November 2014 elections, as well as provided additional outreach at the June 2015 elections. Over 50 Falmouth businesses have been interviewed, and their feedback has been assessed and taken into strong consideration while developing a recommended policy to regulate the use of disposable shopping bags. On September 16<sup>th</sup>, REAC presented their findings during the Town Council meeting, and explain the recommended policy which will be the basis of an upcoming ordinance. The public forum followed the presentation, where citizens were allotted five minutes to share their thoughts.

The Portland Press quotes, “about a dozen people spoke during the half-hour comment session at a Town Council meeting, and nearly all favored a plan that would first impose a fee on plastic and paper shopping bags given out by the town’s largest retailers, and then ban the use of plastic bags in all town stores a year later. “ The Ordinance Committee will now be taking up this issue. Stay tuned!

## Calendar of Local Green Events- September 2015

Event	Date/Time/Location	Description
<p><b>Climate Ride—Bar Harbor to Boston</b></p> 	<p>September 17-21 Detailed information <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<p>This 5-day, 390 mile route takes advantage of the best cycling in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. You’ll ride along the North Atlantic’s scenic coastline by day and spend evenings with an amazing community of people. Climate Ride events are designed to inspire people. Participants have the opportunity to meet and networks with individuals doing great work in the sustainability, green energy, climate change, and active transportation fields.</p>
<p><b>Maine Coast Week—Back Cove, Portland Litter Cleanup</b></p> 	<p>September 19<sup>th</sup> 9:00am-12:00pm Back Cove, Portland</p>	<p>This event is Maine’s largest single volunteer effort. The Coastal Cleanup includes volunteers from all backgrounds who clean our coastal shoreline and associated waterways of trash. Each year, over a thousand participants clear hundreds of thousands of miles of trash. What is collected is recorded and this data then becomes part of the international ocean trash index which is compiled by Ocean Conservancy. Coastal Cleanup is looking for volunteers! There are <i>many</i> opportunities to get involved and do your part. Visit <a href="#">this link</a> for more information.</p>

<p><b>Farm-to-Table Dinners at Wolfe's Neck Farm—Harvest Dinner</b></p> 	<p>September 20 5:00-8:00pm Wolfe's Neck Farm 184 Burnett Rd., Freeport</p>	<p>Wolfe's Neck Farm has been partnering with local farms and restaurants for these unique events, designed to support efforts to expand the availability of fresh, local and sustainably-grown food in Maine. Come enjoy a celebration of the harvest season with local food prepared by Chef Brad Messier of Rosemont Market and Bakery.</p>
<p><b>Maine Development Foundation's 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting—Connecting Leadership for Economic Growth</b></p> 	<p>September 25 9:00am-1:15pm Cross Insurance Center 515 Main St., Bangor</p>	<p>Engage with a diverse audience of business owners, industry leaders, educators, experts and innovators from across Maine at MDF's 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. New President &amp; CEO, Yellow Light Breen, will reflect on Maine and MDF's accomplishments, challenges, and opportunities and share their vision for the future. For the meeting agenda and other detailed information, <a href="#">click here</a>.</p>
<p><b>Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association—The Common Ground Country Fair</b></p> 	<p>September 25-27 294 Crosby Brook Rd, Unity <a href="#">Directions here</a>.</p>	<p>On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, MOFGA's Common Ground Fair will be held in Unity. This fair brings together so many people from all walks of life, all in the spirit of celebrating the rural and agricultural traditions of Maine. Areas of interest include agricultural products and demonstrations, environmental concerns, composting and recycling, energy and shelter, health and healing, arts and crafts, and so much more! For more information, follow <a href="#">this link</a>.</p>

## Energy News

**Brunswick Project will Turn Waste into Renewable Energy**—the \$10 million anaerobic digester is in the culmination of a five-year effort. Dave Weyburn and his business partners are counting on the things most people throw away to fuel a 1-megawatt anaerobic digester that their company, Village Green Ventures, is building at the Brunswick Landing business park. They are going to need roughly 180 tons of waste each day. To read more, follow [this link](#).

**City of Portland adds two More Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations at Parking Garages**—on July 29, the Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) along with Portland staff, elected officials, and the Iberdrola USA Foundation met to celebrate the expansion of the City's EV charging infrastructure. As part of a grant to GPCOG from the Iberdrola USA Foundation, the City was able to install two Level II charging stations. So far, seven EV chargers have been installed at municipal buildings and other locations including one here at Falmouth Town Hall!

**Legislature and LePage Agree: Rural Residents Given Right to Question Wind Turbines**—after several years of trying, a group of citizens from the state’s rural Unorganized Territories (UT) have won their fight to pass legislation that would give them greater say in the siting of large, industrial wind turbines in their communities. The Governor signed L.D. 828, which allows citizens in certain UT plantations and townships to petition for the removal of the state’s “Expedited Wind Zone,” where permitting for turbines is meant to be quicker and more streamlined than in other parts of the state. For the full article, click [here](#).

**Study: Air Pollution Kills 3.3 Million Each Year**—and we can’t blame all the smoke and soot death on power plants and traffic: Farming emissions surprisingly are a big factor. The study suggests the problem with farms is ammonia from fertilizer and animal waste. China has the most air pollution fatalities, followed by India and Pakistan. The United States, with 54,905 deaths in 2010 from soot and smog, ranks seventh for air pollution deaths. To read more, follow [this link](#).

## Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

- ✓ Check the air pressure in your tires. Cooler temperatures lower tire pressure and that, in turn, lowers fuel efficiency. So check your tires and make sure that they are properly inflated
- ✓ Clean and test your home heating system; schedule an appointment to get it serviced
- ✓ Vacuum the refrigerator coils to keep the compressor running efficiently
- ✓ Clean the ducts and area behind your washer and dryer
- ✓ Check windows for proper caulking, and check doors for weather stripping and replace as necessary

Wondering how to store some of your harvest from your vegetable garden? Follow [this link](#) to learn about root cellaring and how to store some of your home grown goodies!

## Did you know ...?

...that Casco Bay Lines uses locally produced biodiesel from Maine Standard Biofuels?

...that the Falmouth School Department is completely oil free? All domestic heat and hot water is provided by woodchips.

...that biomass is now the largest source of renewable energy in the U.S.? There are 200 existing plants which provided enough electricity to 1.5 million American homes.

...that wind energy contributes just over 1% of world-wide electricity use? And for Denmark, it accounts for approximately 20% of its total electricity production.

**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.