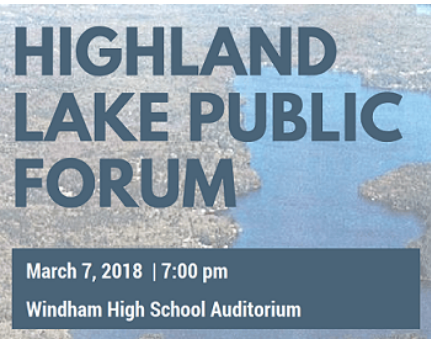






Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 6, Issue 3, March 2018 – Falmouth, Maine

- The days are getting warmer and longer—Spring is right around the corner! How do you gear up for living sustainably in the Spring season?
- 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.

Calendar of Local Green Events—March 2018

Event	Date/Time/Location	Description
<p>Highland Lake Public Forum</p>  <p>The poster features a scenic view of Highland Lake with the text 'HIGHLAND LAKE PUBLIC FORUM' in large blue letters. Below the image, it says 'March 7, 2018 7:00 pm' and 'Windham High School Auditorium'.</p>	<p>March 7 7:00pm Windham High School 406 Gray Rd., Windham</p>	<p>Join in on the discussion about the health of Highland Lake. There has been a 4-consecutive year mysterious bacteria bloom occurring at the lake during the end of July into early August. Come learn how you can make a difference by being a steward of the lake and getting involved! This event is organized by the Highland Lake Leadership Team, a partnership between the Highland Lake Association, and the Towns of Windham and Falmouth. For more information, please contact the Lake Association president, Rosie Hartzler at (207) 415-3727.</p>
<p>Lawns and Lobsters: Environmentally Safe Lawn Care Public Forum</p>  <p>The image shows a close-up of a large, colorful beetle on a green lawn. Below it is the 'FALMOUTH MAINE 300' logo, which includes a stylized landscape and the text '1718 • 2018'.</p>	<p>March 10 9:00am-12:00pm Portland Country Club 11 Foreside Rd., Falmouth</p>  <p>The logo is circular with 'PORTLAND COUNTRY CLUB' around the top and 'ORG. 1895' at the bottom. In the center is a stylized 'PC' monogram.</p>	<p>Because all of Falmouth drains into Casco Bay, everything we put on our lawns affects lobsters, fish and clams. Learn about this intricate relationship, and the significant role landscapers can play in persevering our natural resources. Come learn from experts and ask questions. This event is being held by the Falmouth Conservation Commission, and is free to all who would like to attend. For more information, visit this website.</p> <p>Lawns and Lobsters is part of Falmouth’s 300th Celebration: <u><i>Changing Landscapes, Shifting Tides: The Story of Falmouth Event Series.</i></u></p>

<p>Construction Specifications Institute (CSI)—Maine's 2018 High Performing Building Conference</p> 	<p>March 15 8:00am-5:30pm Holiday Inn by the Bay 88 Spring St., Portland</p>	<p>CSI Maine's High-Performance Building Conference gathers architects, engineers, contractors, facility managers, distributors, manufacturers and other building construction professionals for a full day of education and networking. In addition to five educational sessions, more than 20 manufacturers will be exhibiting products and will be available to answer questions on services related to building design and construction. For more information and to register, click here.</p>
<p>Maine Sustainability & Water Conference</p> 	<p>March 29 7:30am-4:00pm Augusta Civic Center 76 Community Dr., Augusta</p>	<p>This conference provides a nexus for professionals, researchers, consultants, citizens, students, regulators, and planners. People gather to exchange information and present new findings on sustainability, and water resource issues, in Maine. The keynote will be given by John Hagan, President of Manomet, who will speak on, "The Science of When Science Doesn't Matter (and what to do about it)". Concurrent sessions include: Rivers and Their Fish, Protecting Waters in Forest Operations, Religious and Ethical Respect for Water Resources, Resiliency to Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding, Valuing Ecosystem Services, Citizen Science, and much more.</p>

Energy News

The Quiet Power Market Transformation Behind the New Carbon Market in China—In December, the Chinese government announced the launch of its national carbon emissions trading scheme (ETS), which is expected to become the largest ETS in the world. To read more, follow [this link](#).

CMP's \$1 Billion Project to Deliver Renewable Power to Massachusetts gets a Second Chance—The plan calls for building a 145-mile transmission corridor from Quebec, through Maine, to Massachusetts, which is trying to increase its renewable power by 2020. CMP's proposal had been a runner-up in the request for proposals, but the initial winner failed to gain regulatory approval to build its transmission corridor through New Hampshire. For the full article, [click here](#).

Supporters of Heating Aid Program Vow to Fight Elimination—The Trump administration is calling for the complete elimination of a heating assistance program that helps to keep the homes of low-income families warm, known as LIHEAP—Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Read more, [here](#).

Residents to Appeal Solar Panel Tax—A group of residents who own homes in York are upset by a decision of the town to add a \$1,000-per-panel assessment to their property's overall value, calling the move "unjust" and perhaps unconstitutional. The only other municipality in the state of Maine that assesses residential panels is Brunswick, at a rate of \$500 per panel. Added to this, Maine is alone among New England states in not offering a property tax exemption for renewable energy systems. For the full article, [follow this link](#).

Owners of Hybrids, All-Electric Vehicles Fume Over Proposals to Assess Annual Fee—The Maine Department of Transportation has proposal annual fees of \$150 for hybrid vehicles and \$250 for electric vehicles because many owners pay lower gas taxes than drivers of standard vehicles, or no gas tax at all. Read more, [Read more here.](#)

Wind Industry Sues LePage Administration Over Order Halting Permits—The Maine Renewable Energy Association claims that Governor Paul LePage violated Maine’s constitutional separation of powers when he issued a moratorium on new wind turbine permits. For the full story, [click here.](#)

In Other News...

Maine Kelp, Climate, Ocean Acidity Projects Gets Funding—The project at the University of Maine and other institutions will receive a total of nearly \$1 million for these efforts.

South Portland Greenhouse Plan Envisions Grow Space for Multiple Restaurants—Planning Board approval follows discussions about pesticide use and whether other types of cultivation will be allowed. Read more, [here.](#)

Portland, South Portland, Aim to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 80 Percent—This collaborative Climate Action Plan aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050. For the full article, [click here.](#)

The Next Five Years Will Shape Sea-Level Rise for the Next 300, Study Says—The study included scientists at institutions in Australia, Austria and Germany. The goal of the research was to analyze how to limit warming below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), which would require that the world essentially needs to cease adding any more greenhouse gases to the atmosphere by 2050 or so. For every five-year delay in the peaking of emissions, the middle-range sea-level projection for 2300 increased by 20 centimeters, or about eight inches, the study found. Read the full piece, [here.](#)

Rockland Gives the Initial OK to Ban on Plastic Bags—The ordinance, which faces a formal public hearing and possible final vote on March 12, would also ban Styrofoam containers and impose a fee on paper bags.

Green Consumer Tips & How-To's &

Weatherization Myths and Facts—Provided by Efficiency Maine

- **MYTH #1: The solution for ice dams is to call a roofer.**
FACT: Ice dams aren’t a roofing problem. Ice dams form when attics are unintentionally heated by air leaks and/or insufficient insulation. This causes snow on the roof to melt, and freeze on the eaves, creating ice dams. You can reduce the risk of ice dams by sealing attic air leaks and adding insulation
- **MYTH #2: The solution for frozen pipes is to call a plumber.**
FACT: Though a plumber can repair frozen pipes, weatherizing is the best way to avoid having them freeze in the first place
- **MYTH #3: It’s easy to tell where my home is losing energy.**
FACT: Many homeowners think the biggest air leaks are around windows and doors. While these leaks can be significant, most air leaks are hidden from view, passing through floors and ceilings, around chimneys, pipes, ductwork etc. A Participating Energy Advisor, using specialized equipment and a computer model, can identify and quantify the extent of your energy loss.
- **MYTH #4: A boiler without a storage tank is efficient because you’re not storing hot water.**
FACT: With the exception of modern, on-demand water heaters, tankless water heating systems are the least efficient.

- **MYTH #5—The best way to deal with uncomfortably hot rooms is with an air conditioner.**
FACT: With professional weatherization you can often address the source of discomfort without using energy-draining air conditioners. Professional weatherization cannot only keep rooms warmer in the winter, but can also keep them cooler in the summer.
- **MYTH #6: Newer homes don't need weatherization.**
FACT: Houses built before June 2010 were not subject to any state energy efficiency building codes. Therefore, the age of a home is not necessarily a good indicator of energy efficiency.
- **MYTH #7: A dehumidifier is the best solution for everything from damp basement to mustiness.**
FACT: A Participating Energy Advisor can identify moisture sources and recommend way to reduce moisture in your home without using energy-draining dehumidifiers.
- **MYTH #8: Making your house too airtight is dangerous. Houses have to breathe.**
FACT: While houses do need fresh air, most homes have more air leaks than necessary. Even worse, incoming air usually enters homes through basements, garages, and crawl spaces, which can compromise air quality. Controlling the flow of air in your home can save energy and improve air quality, too.
- **MYTH #9: A humidifier is the best way to keep your home comfortable during a dry Maine winter.**
FACT: Air leakage is the most common cause of excessive dryness. When cold air enters the house and is heated, the relative humidity is significantly reduced. Air sealing can help keep your home at a comfortable humidity level, without the need for a humidifier.
- **MYTH #10: Historic home can't be weatherized.**
FACT: The important thing to remember is that a trusted professional makes all the difference. Efficiency Maine Participating Energy Advisory are certified by the Building Performance Institute (BPI) to identify energy-saving opportunities while still preserving the integrity and character-defining features of older homes.

Visit [Efficiency Maine's](#) website for information on energy efficiency at home and at work, and learn about their programs and incentives which will help get you on your way to living more efficiently, while saving money.

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.