



Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 4, Issue 3 March 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.
- Did you attend the third annual Falmouth Home Energy Fair? Do you have any comments or suggestions on how to make the event even better for next year? We’d love to hear your feedback!

Calendar of Local Green Events—March 2016

Event	Date/Time/Location	Description
 <p>Natural Resources Council of Maine—Citizen’s Action Day</p> <p>Natural Resources Council of Maine</p>	<p>March 1 8:00am-1:00pm NRCM Office 3 Wade St., Augusta</p>	<p>This is a great opportunity for you to meet with your legislators at the State House in Augusta and urge them to vote to protect Maine’s environment. NRCM staff will provide information on their priority environmental bills, share tips about how to communicate effectively with legislators, escort you to the State House and make sure that you leave Augusta feeling that you have made a difference. For more information, and to register, follow this link.</p>
 <p>Annual ReVision Energy Open House and Solar Workshop</p>	<p>March 5 10:00am-12:00pm ReVision Energy 91 West Main St., Liberty</p>	<p>Join ReVision Energy for their annual open house and workshop at their solar-powered location in Liberty village. They will discuss new solar options, including storage technology and the growing number of solar farms in Maine, as well as a policy update on the future of solar in our state. For more information, call Jennifer at 589-4171 or email her at jablee@revisionenergy.com.</p>

<p><i>Death by Degrees: The Health Crisis of Climate Change in Maine—Film and Discussion</i></p> 	<p>March 8 6:30-8:00pm Falmouth Memorial Library 5 Lunt Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>“Death by Degrees” is a series of reports by Physicians for Social Responsibility that looks at the damaging health effects of global warming by states or regions within the United States. Join REAC as they co-host this discussion, where a local physician introduces Maine residents to the damaging health effects of climate change in Maine to encourage residents to reverse global warming’s deadly course by reducing reliance on fossil fuels. Dr. Dan Oppenheim, a resident of Falmouth, will be the speaker.</p>
<p><i>The Great Bear Sea Film and Discussion</i></p> 	<p>March 9 6:00-8:15pm One Longfellow Square, Portland</p>	<p>Come learn about the draft Northeast Regional Ocean Plan being released for public review this spring and discuss how we can help sustain our marine environment, livelihoods and cultures. The Great Bear Sea is a wild expanse of ocean where whales, wolves, bears and humans thrive in rich coastal ecosystems. It is also a place where worlds collide—a place full of historic conflicts, emerging struggles over ocean resources, and now, globally leading solutions. After the film, an interactive panel discussion will take place.</p>
<p>New England Clean Energy Procurement Project Proposals</p> 	<p>March 11 7:15-10:00am Maple Hill Farm Inn 11 Inn Rd., Hallowell</p>	<p>A consortium of New England states and electric utilities issued a joint RFP to identify projects that will advance the clean energy goals for Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island and received 24 bids for larger solar, wind, fuel cell and hydro generation and transmission projects. E2tech has invited companies submitting complex transmissions plans to break down their projects’ scale and scope to present at this forum. For more information and to register, click here.</p>

<p>Saco Home and Business Energy Fair</p> 	<p>March 12 10:00am-3:00pm Thornton Academy 438 Main St., Saco</p> <p>March 26 10:00am-3:00pm Harriet Beecher Stowe School 44 McKeen St., Brunswick</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>Transportation Costs in Maine</p> 	<p>March 17 6:30-8:00pm Diamond Building Colby College 4000 Mayflower Hill, Waterville</p>	<p>Bill Basford is a retired energy engineer who worked with Efficiency Maine, Green Mountain Power in Vermont, and the US Navy, among others. He has devoted some of his time since retirement to studying the huge economic drain caused by high automobile dependence in Maine. He will outline the huge economic losses due to automobile dependence, and recommend several local cost approaches that state and local governments can use to make it easier to live here with far few automobiles.</p>
<p>Climate Change/Behavior Change</p> 	<p>March 23-24 Colby College, Waterville</p> <p>For registration and event information, follow this link.</p>	<p>Join leaders and practitioners from education, communities and sciences for a day of highlighting environmental education program successes that focus on climate change and behavior change, especially at a school or community level. Learn about program strategies that have been shown to effect change in behavior and attitudes.</p>
<p>Climate Change & How Municipal Government Can Be Part of the Solution</p> 	<p>March 24 8:00am Freeport Town Office 30 Main St., Freeport</p>	<p>GrowSmart Maine is hosting this breakfast forum where they will be exploring the various ways in which Maine communities are meeting the challenge of climate change while sharing resources that others can learn from. These local and regional solutions are created at the municipal level and help Mainers achieve their goals for a more sustainable community. Falmouth's Energy & Sustainability Coordinator will be one of the panelists. For more information, follow this link.</p>

<p>Bringing (Solar) Power to the People</p>  <p>Natural Resources Council of Maine</p>	<p>March 25 7:00-8:30pm Unitarian Universalists Church 121 Bucksport Rd., Ellsworth</p> 	<p>Join NRCM's Emmie Theberge and ReVision Energy for a presentation on solar power and the benefits it can bring to Maine people. At this event, you'll learn about options for investing in solar power for your home or in your community, and about how you can help move Maine forward with new solar policies. Please RSVP to this event by clicking here.</p>
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Energy News

Groundbreaking Solar Initiative Wins Support from Wide Array of Solar Supporters, Small Businesses, Bipartisan Lawmakers, and Key Stakeholders—last Thursday, a group of stakeholders announced their support for historic new solar legislation that will dramatically increase solar installation throughout Maine in the upcoming years; as much as 250 megawatts of new solar by 2022, where Maine currently has about 18 megawatts of solar installed. To read more, follow [this link](#).

Lawmakers Support Industry-Funded Battery Recycling Program—a legislative panel is supporting a bill that would create a used-battery collection and recycling program funded by manufacturers that would allow consumers to discard batteries at participating retail stores. To read more, [click here](#).

Maine Lawmakers Debate Changes to Waste Disposal Laws—every day, more than four pounds of waste is generated by every man, woman and child in Maine. Maine currently recycles some and landfills a lot more. The Legislature's Energy and Natural Resources Committee is proposing a number of changes to the current law. To read more, [click here](#).

Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

This winter weather is far from normal. I was raking my yard just the other day! While doing laundry, I have been daydreaming of hanging my clothes on the line...but, we still have to wait for some warmer, true spring weather. Here are some [Green Spring Cleaning Tips](#) to prepare for spring which is right around the corner.

Did you know...?

...that natural gas consumption in the power sector was expected to grow by 8.1% in 2015 and by 1.9% in 2016?

...that half of Maine's electricity is generated by natural gas, where another quarter of the state's demand is supplied from hydroelectricity?

...that Maine uses more electricity from burning wood and wood waste than any other state? These resources provide about 20% of our state's electricity.

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.