



Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)





“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 4, Issue 9 September 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.
- It’s that time of year again—fall is right around the corner with winter not far behind. How do you get your home ready for the colder months to come?

REAC is looking for new members! Interested in joining our team? Apply online at www.falmouthme.org to get involved in our work making Falmouth a sustainable place to live, work and play!

Calendar of Local Green Events-September 2016

Event	Date/Time/Location	Description
<p>Rails and Sprints: Passenger Rail to Lewiston/Auburn, Montreal!</p> 	<p>September 1 6:00-9:00pm Stroudwater Distillery 4 Thompson’s Point, Portland</p>	<p>Meet fellow passenger train advocates and come show your support for the business at the new Portland Transportation Center at Thompson’s Point. Presenters include Portland Mayor Ethan Strimling, rail expert Tony Donovan, and Montreal train advocate Francois Rebello. This event is co-sponsored by the Sierra Club, Maine Rail Transit Coalition and AARP Maine. This free forum will feature presentations and discussion on the state of the passenger rail in Maine. For more information, follow this link.</p>
<p>Portland Greenfest</p> 	<p>September 10 10:00am-4:00pm Monument Sq., downtown Portland</p>	<p>Portland Greenfest is Southern Maine’s largest environmental festival with over 60 exhibitors, musical performers and thousands of attendees. Admission is free! Learn from a wide array of exhibitors how you can make your home or business more sustainable, while saving money. There will be plenty of activities for children, and lots to do for the whole family. Visit the event page by clicking here.</p>

<p>Tour de Farms XVII</p>	<p>September 10 Morris Farm 156 Gardiner Rd., Wiscasset</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:00am start (7:45am Safety Talk) for 56 and 42 mile • 10:00am start with Safety Talk for 18 mile Family Ride • Local Foods BBQ 2pm-5pm at The Morris Farm 	<p>The Morris Farm Trust is both a working farm and an educational resource for the community of Midcoast Maine. Join them for their 17th annual Tour de Farms bike ride! Pedal through beautiful Midcoast Maine, stopping to visit local farms on the way. For more detailed event information, follow this link.</p>
<p>Drive Electric Day</p> 	<p>September 11 12:00-4:00pm South Portland Community Center 21 Nelson Rd., South Portland</p>	<p>Come out and test drive electric vehicles, see the latest models, and talk to electric vehicle enthusiasts on the benefits of owning one! This event is part of National Drive Electric Week 2016. Experience firsthand the benefits of driving electric: fun to drive, cheaper to operate, and great for the environment.</p>
<p>Natural Resources Council of Maine—Conservation Leadership Awards</p>  <p>Natural Resources Council of Maine</p>	<p>September 14 5:30-7:30pm Congregation Bet Ha'am 81 Westbrook St., South Portland</p> <p>For more event information, click here.</p>	<p>The NRCM Conservation Leadership Awards are given in recognition of an individual or group for outstanding dedication to protecting Maine's environment, and whose actions have made a real difference at the local, regional, or state level in safeguarding the Maine we know and love. In addition to the awards given by NRCM, members of the public determine who will receive the People's Choice award.</p>
<p>Maine Outdoor Weekend</p> 	<p>September 16-18 All over Maine Events in Cumberland County</p> <p>September 24—9:00-10:00am <i>Falmouth's Guided Nature Walk</i> North Falmouth Community Forest</p> <p>September 27—6:30-7:30pm <i>Land & Trail Steward Workshop</i> Mason-Motz Activity Center</p>	<p>The Great Maine Outdoor Weekend is a series of events led by outdoor oriented organizations and companies to celebrate how, where, and what being active is outside in Maine. The organization's goal is to connect friends and family with the natural world, to promote fun, physical activity and good health. Falmouth Community Programs will have a Guided Nature Walk Event through the North Falmouth Community Forest in celebration of Maine Outdoor Weekend.</p>
<p>Climate Change, Energy and Health Workshop</p>  <p>UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND</p>	<p>September 21 University of New England 716 Stevens Ave., Portland</p>	<p>This event is intended for nurses or nursing students interested in making a difference with their patients and communities on environmental health. Participants will learn about the health impacts of climate change and gain skills to help protect communities from the most pressing public health issues of our time. For more information on this workshop, follow this link.</p>

<p>ecomaine's Annual Open House and E-Waste Collection</p> 	<p>September 24 8:00-11:00am 64 Blueberry Rd., Portland</p>	<p>Don't miss out on this once-a-year family friendly event! The annual ecomaine Recycling Open House presents a morning of free breakfast sandwiches and giveaways, electronic waste collection, recycling bins (while supplies last), kids' activities, tours and more.</p>
<p>Efficiency Maine's Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Forum</p> 	<p>September 29 University of Southern Maine Abromson Center 2:00-6:00pm</p>	<p>At the end of September, join Efficiency Maine at their CHP forum to learn more about this technology and the significant opportunity for expansion in Maine. Participants will have the opportunity to hear about the role of CHP in Maine's energy future, project incentives through the Trust's Commercial & Industrial Custom Program, and customer implementation experiences. This event is free of cost and open to the public.</p>

Energy News

Oil Spill Response Ship Pulled from Service as Portland Pipeline Deliveries Slow—The Maine Responder, a massive pollution-control vessel that has been moored in Portland Harbor for more than two decades, has been pulled from service because its operator has lost funding and the risk of an oil spill in the region has dropped. To read the full article, [follow this link](#).

Massachusetts Ruling Threatens New England Pipeline Project—the decision against having electricity ratepayers subsidize the expansion of a natural gas pipeline is a victory for the region's environmental groups. The court said private companies should bear all the financial risks. For the full article, [click here](#).

Rural Mainers Want More Say in Fast-Tracked Wind Projects—Maine's quest to become a leader in wind power has gotten pushback from the rural residents who say they want a greater voice in the proposals that now bypass them and go directly to the state for review. To read more, [click here](#).

English Village Becomes Climate Leader by Quietly Cleaning up Its Own Patch—Ashton Hayes, England is home to about 1,000 people. Here, hundreds of residents have banded together to cut greenhouse gas emissions. How did they do it? Follow [this link](#) to find out more.

LePage Pulls a U-ey, Calls for Electric Car Tax after Opposing Study—the Governor has called for taxes on electric cars to help maintain the state's roads and bridges. He suggested they could be taxed through the sales or excise tax, and called on the Legislature to address the problem. Read more [here](#).

HVAC School Offers a Lifeline to Workers in Dying Maine Industries—the crash course in Brunswick avoids years of college and can lead to certification in the fast-growing field, which offers relatively high wages. To read the full article, [follow this link](#).

On Trip to Greenland, Sen. King Finds Effects of Climate Change “Amazing and Scary”—he returns from a three-day fact-finding trip with plan to call for more U.S. icebreakers to clear Arctic trade routes. To see photos from his trip, and watch a short video of the Senator, [click here](#).

Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

- Still running your air conditioner? STOP! Open the windows at night and let the cool air in; close them in the morning and draw the shades to keep the sun's heat out
- Add light dimmers and/or occupancy sensors for a 20% or more savings on lighting costs
- Planting shade trees outside your home can save you up to 15% in the winter and as much as 50% in the summer on heating and cooling bills
- If you haven't made the switch to LEDs yet, what are you waiting for? LEDs are 75% more efficient than other lighting options and those savings will pay them off quick!
- Perform basic weatherization; it's not too early to start thinking about the cold months ahead. Repair holes and cracks around pipe penetrations and under sinks; weather strip or caulk doors and windows.
- Wash your clothes on cold and hang them out to dry! The energy saved by not heating up water or running the dryer is substantial.

Did you know...?

...that the typical U.S. family spends more than \$2,200 a year for home utility bills? The Department of Energy looked at the average home's energy using, resulting in the following breakdown:

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| • 42% space heating | • 18% water heating | • 6% cooling |
| • 5% lighting | • 5% refrigeration | • 24% other |

There are many ways to cut down on these figures
—installing a **programmable thermostat** is a great first step!

...that New England's annual electricity use is expected to decline by 0.2% over the next decade? ISO-New England reports this decline could go from 128,014 gigawatt-hours (GWh) in 2016 to 125,213 gigawatt-hours in 2025.

...that without the demand-reducing effects of energy efficiency and photovoltaics, New England's overall electricity use would be expected to grow 1.0% annually over the next decade, from 140,269 GWh in 2016 to 152,731 GWh in 2025, while peak demand would rise at a rate of 1.1%, from 31,303 MW in 2016 to 34,452 MW in 2025?

Visit [ISO-New England's](#) website for more facts on electricity in our region.

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.