






## Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 5, Issue 7, July, 2017 – Falmouth, Maine

- It’s summer! Are you doing any work around your home while the days are warm to prepare for the cold days to come?
- 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!
- Have a question about home energy or waste diversion? We’re happy to help you find answers.

## Calendar of Local Green Events- July, 2017

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date/Time/Location</b>	<b>Description</b>
<p><b>“Inhabit: A Permaculture Perspective”</b></p> 	<p>July 7 7:00-8:00pm (doors open at 6:30) St. Mary’s Church 43 Foreside Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>This film screening is part of a series of events in support of the design of Hurricane Valley Farm in West Falmouth. Become inspired by some of the regenerative practices that might be employed on the farm or for techniques you might apply to your own home. <i>Inhabit</i> is a feature length documentary introducing regenerative land use and permaculture. The film presents a vast array of projects, concepts and people, and it translates the diversity of these techniques into something that can be understood by a diverse audience. For more information on the film and the event, <a href="#">click here</a>.</p>
<p><b>Half-Day Workshop to Learn and Practice “Ecological Design Thinking”</b></p> 	<p>July 8 9:00am-12:30pm Hurricane Valley Farm Schuster Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>What if we could grow more food for people while at the same time creating healthier ecosystems, cleaner water and more fertile soil in the process? Regenerative systems help us meet our needs while relying on the wisdom of natural systems to inspire our agricultural practices and strategies. In this workshop, attendees will learn: Fundamentals of a regenerative land design process and some examples of applied regenerative growing systems; basics of goal-setting and site analysis; how to begin matching goals and objectives with the available site assets (and considering site constraints); and how to prioritize the “phasing in” of design decisions. Follow <a href="#">this link</a> for more information.</p>

<p><b>Facts for the Future</b></p> 	<p>July 18 5:30-7:30pm Cloudport CoWorking MultiSpace 63 Federal St., Portland</p>	<p>Over the past 10 years solar technology has dropped in price by more than 75% making today, more than ever, a great time to invest. ReVision Energy will give you all the tools you need to evaluate solar for your home, and will have current clients talk about what their process was like. Bring your electric bill to the event because they will have a design specialist on hand ready to give you a quote! This event is free and open to the public, but kindly RSVP, as space is limited, to Brittany <a href="mailto:bangelo@revisionenergy.com">bangelo@revisionenergy.com</a> or call their office at (207)221-6342.</p>
<p><b>Electric Grid Futures— Innovation in the Electricity Sector</b></p> 	<p>July 20 7:30-10:30am Brunswick Landing, 15 Suit 200 Terminal Rd., Brunswick</p>	<p>Join E2Tech for a discussion on how electricity distribution technology and business models will change in the future. Brunswick Landing is the ideal location for this conversation, as MRRA owns and operates its power grid, including an anaerobic digester generation facility that is providing electricity to the business park's tenants, and is collaborating with technology partners on innovative microgrid solutions to generate green, reliable power using real-time pricing mechanisms. What is the role of enhanced software, traditional utilities, manufacturers, and renewable energy in the electricity sector? And, how will innovation in the electricity sector help inform Maine's energy, environmental, and economic future?</p>
<p><b>Food for Good: A Celebration of Food &amp; Planet</b></p> 	<p>July 30 1:00-4:00pm O'Maine Studios 54 Danforth St., Portland</p>	<p>This event will highlight how our food choices directly impact climate change. Join Physician's for Social Responsibility Maine for an afternoon of food and fun. Taste climate friendly vegan appetizers and cake! Celebrity judges will choose the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Climate Cake Contest winner. Come explore how we can better support our climate no matter where we live. For more information, contact <a href="mailto:karen@psrmaine.org">karen@psrmaine.org</a>, or by (207) 210-0084.</p> <p>For tickets, visit their site by following <a href="#">this link</a> and be quick; the event sold out last year!</p>

## Energy News

**Jonesboro Biomass Plant Misses out on Second Full Month of Subsidies**—The Company's Jonesboro plant was one of three to qualify for a portion of a \$13.4 million state subsidy to keep the biomass generators afloat and thereby keep open a market for loggers. However, the plant has been offline for over 10 straight weeks. A company spokesman said the plant decided to remain offline due to a boiler leak and continuing shortage of wood supply which has posed challenges to the facility. For the full article, [follow this link](#).

**Unitil Files for Rate Increases for Natural Gas Customers in Maine**—A typical residential customer would see a monthly bill increase of about \$8.66, the utility says.

**Kennebunk Utility Inks 20-Year Deal to Build Solar Energy Array**—The local utility Kennebunk Power and Light has signed a 20-year deal that's designed to support construction of one of the state's largest solar arrays in operation. The array will be located on land next to the West Kennebunk substation, and the utility expects it will begin commercial operation in the fall of 2018. This 2.9-megawatt solar farm will fulfill about 4 percent of the utility's annual power demand, or about 3.9 million kilowatt-hours. For the full article, [click here](#).

**Two Electric Car Charging Stations Installed at Augusta's State House Parking Garage**—The two public chargers that were recently installed in Augusta join about 120 others that are available around the state, mostly along the coast and in the metropolitan areas. To read more, [click here](#).

**Saco Looking to Get Rid of Wind Turbine**—Since 2008, a 100-foot wind turbine has stood tall on York Hill, but now the city is planning to remove the structure which has never lived up to the city's expectations. The turbine was purchased and installed by Entegriy Wind Systems in 2008 for about \$200,000. A contract signed at that time guaranteed the turbine would produce about 90,000 kilowatt hours a year, valued at the time at about \$12,800, and free maintenance for the first five years. The turbine has never come close to generation the amount of energy promised, and Entegriy Wind went bankrupt in 2009. For the full article, [follow this link](#).

## In Other News...

**Portland Joins Climate Mayors in Support of Paris Accord**—So far, 211 mayors representing 54 million Americans have joined the network, which pledges to uphold the goals of the worldwide agreement from which President Trump will withdraw. For the full article, [click here](#).

**Lewiston Adopts Pedestrian-Focused 'Complete Streets' Ordinance**—A policy already in place to make sure city roads are designed to safely accommodate all users will now become an official ordinance. [Follow this link](#) for the full article.

**Damariscotta Fields Requests for Fee on Plastic Bags**—A Hannaford employee and Newcastle resident asked the Damariscotta Board of Selectmen to consider developing an ordinance that would impose a 5-cent fee on disposable plastic bags. The Maine Legislature recently passed a bill to establish a statewide policy promoting the use of reusable bags, but Gov. Paul LePage vetoed the bill last month. The House sustained the veto 73-70. To read more, [click here](#).

**Bottle Bill Expansions**—The Legislature voted to override the governor's veto of a bill to require a five-cent deposit on small liquor bottles ("nips") to add them to Maine's Bottle Bill. Nips are a major source of road litter. Last year, the State Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages sold more than 8 million nips to Maine liquor stores, with 12 million in sales expected this year and 17 million next. Having lost on the issue, the governor has initiated the process to stop nip sales, at a cost of 150 bottling plant jobs and several million dollars in lost revenue. A hearing on his proposal is slated for July 11.

## Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

**Bug off, Naturally!**—Make an all-natural bug repellent with 10 drops of eucalyptus or lemongrass oil and two tablespoons soybean oil mixed in a glass jar—dab it on your skin. Chemicals in many commercial insect repellents may cause skin irritation and swelling—and some have been classified by the EPA as carcinogens, if ingested.

**Keeping Cool in the Car**—Does your car have an air conditioner? Run it intermittently, not constantly, to save fuel.

**Say No to Styrofoam**—Polystyrene is a petroleum-based substance commonly known as styrofoam. It can't be recycled, so avoid it when possible. Keep a travel mug in your car and bring a reusable "doggy bag" for your restaurant left overs.

**Save a (Dead) Tree**—If you have a wooded area on your property, resist the temptation to cut down standing dead trees. They provide habitat for birds, insects, rodents, and other small mammals.

**Keep Out the "Compests"**—If your compost pile is attracting unwanted critter, don't give up! Build a barrier out of chicken wire around your composter.

## Did you know...?

...if you commute 10 miles a day each way, that carpooling with one person in a 25-mpg vehicle can save you more than \$260 a year on gas?

...your refrigerator uses more energy than any other kitchen appliance? Decide what you want before opening the door! We're all guilty of this!

...the Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) has a photo contest? This year, the contest celebrates '30 years of Land for Maine's Future'. Now through August 18<sup>th</sup> they will be accepting photos. [Follow this link](#) to learn more!

...that NRCM also does a 'People's Choice Award'? If you know someone who has volunteered to keep Maine a special place to live, work and play, someone who goes above and beyond to make sure future generations will enjoy the kind of Maine we love today, then nominate this person by August 7<sup>th</sup>. [Follow this link](#) to learn more!

...that Efficiency Maine has extended their rebates for heat pumps beyond July 1<sup>st</sup>? You'll have the same two ways to get it—1. Participating distributors can discount units \$750 using their instant rebate, or; 2. Units purchased without their instant rebate qualify for a \$750 mail-in rebate.

## ...there is still time to sign up for Falmouth's WindowDressers Program?

Here is how to take advantage of these custom window insets:

1. Sign up today at [www.windowdressers.org](http://www.windowdressers.org)
2. Get your windows measured this summer (deadline is approaching!)
3. Participate in the community build in September
4. Save on heating expenses next heating season with new custom made window inserts

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**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.