


## Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)




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- It’s hard to believe autumn is already here, 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!

## Calendar of Local Green Events- November 2015

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date/Time/Location</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Solarize Brunswick for Business Community</b> 	November 4 7:30-9:00am Community Room 8 Venture Ave., Brunswick Landing, Brunswick	Join ReVision Energy for this special event of information, networking and more. Solarize Brunswick and ReVision Energy invite you to come out and learn more about the powerful economic and environmental returns delivered by a solar investment. The free presentation will include examples of local solar projects, typical investment ranges, tax incentives, financing options and the group discount available through Solarize Brunswick. For more information, and to register, follow <a href="#">this link</a> .
<b>Community Solar Farms 101—Farmington</b>	November 5 6:30-8:30pm Farmington Public Library 117 Academy St., Farmington	Have you be interested in solar electricity for your home or business, but don’t have adequate solar on your rooftop? If so, come to this event for a free presentation covering community solar farms and how they can work for you!

<p><b>The Art + Science of Brewing</b></p> 	<p>November 5 5:30-7:30pm Oxbow Blending &amp; Bottling 49 Washington Ave., Portland</p>	<p>The Maine Center for Creativity is sponsoring the 2015 Creative Toolbox Art + Science Series, a 3-part series exploring how the disciplines of science and art combine and complement each other to foster innovation in business. Breweries are known to use an abundance of energy and resources, yet craft beer is one of the fastest growing industries in Maine and America. Come out to learn more about the brewing process, network, and drink some local beer. Follow <a href="#">this link</a> for more information.</p>
<p><b>Climate Change and Our Economy, Rockland</b></p>	<p>November 5 6:30pm The Strand Theatre 345 Main St., Rockland</p>	<p>Join NRCM, the Georges River Land Trust and others in Rockland for an evening discussion about climate change and how our incredible landscape can be leverage to make Maine become a more economic player through adaptation. The featured speaker at this event will be Dr. Stephen Mulkey, a true champion of sustainability science. Also joining the conversation will be a panel of ecological leaders in Maine who will provide their perspective on climate change solutions for Maine's future. To learn more about this event <a href="#">click here</a>.</p>
<p><b>2015 Island Energy Conference</b></p> 	<p>November 5-7 For detailed event information, and to register, click <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<p>The sixth annual Island Energy Conference will include speakers and panels on Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, and a site visit to Star Island, NG, which hosts Northern new England's largest offshore photovoltaic array, on Saturday November 7<sup>th</sup>. Don't miss out on this informative and inspiring event!</p>

<p><b>Freeport Energy Summit</b></p> 	<p>November 7 9:00-11:30am Freeport Town Offices 30 Main St., Freeport</p>	<p>The Solarize Freeport efforts for offering residents and small businesses discounts on solar installations is wrapping up, so what's next? Everyone is invited to the Freeport Energy Summit! The goal is to come up with a few initiatives that can be started right away in the areas of energy conservation, renewable energy and innovation. For more information, contact Freeport's Town Planner, Donna Larson at <a href="mailto:dlarson@freeportmaine.com">dlarson@freeportmaine.com</a></p>
<p><b>The Food Hub Hubbub: Fad or Future: 2015 Slow Money Maine Daylong Gathering</b></p>	<p>November 12 9:00am-4:00pm University of Maine, Hutchinson Center 80 Belmont Ave., Belfast</p>	<p>Slow Money Maine is a diverse network which represents many sectors and communities in Maine, with a focus on supporting local sustainable food systems. Join them for their daylong gathering in Belfast for their "Fad or Future" gathering. For more information, follow <a href="#">this link</a>.</p>
<p><b>Maine Harvest Festival</b></p> 	<p>November 14-15 10:00am-4:00pm Cross Insurance Center 515 Main St., Bangor</p>	<p>The Maine Harvest Festival features renowned Maine chefs, and over 49,000 square feet filled with State of Maine growers and their harvest, bakers, cheese makers, vintners, brewers and fiber artisans with demonstrations, sampling, sales, toe tapping music and so much more. For complete event details, vendors and floor plan, <a href="#">click here</a>.</p>
<p><b>Maine Stormwater Conference</b></p> 	<p>November 16-18 Portland Marriott at Stable Oaks 200 Stable Oaks Dr., South Portland</p>	<p>The biennial Maine Stormwater Conference brings together municipal, state and federal employees; engineers; planners; academics; and other professionals to learn about and discuss stormwater management. Relevant, real-world examples of innovative stormwater management will be shared, along with an opportunity to connect with professionals around the region. To register for this conference, follow <a href="#">this link</a>.</p>

<p><b>Developing Large-Scale Solar Projects in Maine and New Hampshire</b></p> 	<p>November 18 8:00am-2:30pm Double Tree Hotel 363 Maine Mall Rd., South Portland</p>	<p>Join TRC for an informative and engaging event with featured speakers from Maine and New Hampshire businesses, government agencies and educational institutions. Topics to be discussed include: solar power generation basics; getting power from here to there—utility infrastructure and interconnection options; planning and permitting for large commercial and utility scale solar development; financing options and solar incentives; state perspectives; and case studies. Space is limited; email <a href="mailto:jcaplinger@trcsolutions.com">jcaplinger@trcsolutions.com</a> with your RSVP.</p>
<p><b>E2Tech 2015 Annual Meeting &amp; Forum: Risky Business: Floods, Fatalities and Fear</b></p> 	<p>November 19 7:00-10:30am Wishcamper Center, USM 34 Bedford St., Portland</p>	<p>How do we address risk in our society? What role should the precautionary principle have in regulatory proceedings? What are the greatest threats to Maine? E2Tech is hosting a facilitated discussion on risk factors—from climate change to automobile accidents to bisphenol A in baby bottles. Panelists will elevate the conversation beyond advocacy talking points and share their thoughts on the relative risk of perceived threats to the environment, human health, and the economy. To register for this event, <a href="#">click here</a>.</p>
<p><b>Maine Audubon— Homeschool Field Trip: Forces in Nature</b></p> 	<p>November 25 9:00am-3:00pm Maine Audubon 20 Gilsland Farm Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>Maine Audubon staff aims to nurture the natural curiosity of children through experimental learning, exploration and play. Every field trip includes a focus question which sets the stage for investigating solutions or providing alternatives. Scholars will participate in activities that exemplify energy transfers and how energy flows through systems during this trip. Beginning with the sun as the original source of energy on this planet, staff will help children recognize that energy constantly flows from one form to another. Visit <a href="#">this site</a> for more information.</p>

## Energy News

**Beyond China, other Southeast Asian Countries Plan for Significant Hydroelectric Additions—**China's substantial development of hydroelectric power, including the largest power plant in the world at the Three Gorges Dam, has overshadowed the relatively large hydroelectric expansion plans of other Southeast Asia countries. Combined, the small countries in Southeast Asia plan to construct 61 gigawatts (GW) of new hydroelectric generating capacity through 2020. If all planned projects are completed, these countries will more than double their 2012 hydroelectric capacity of 39 GW.

**Pouring Oil on Troubled Waters: 'Surplus until 2017'**—as the price of oil continues to decline, economists have warned on a lack of upward price pressure for the commodity for at least another two years. "The market is still going to be in surplus by this time next year," quotes Thomas Pugh an economist at Capital Economics. The U.K oil giant BP announced on Tuesday it was slashing costs as it prepares for a long term low oil price environment. The company is planning for oil to be around \$60 per barrel until 2017. Follow [this link](#) to read more.

**Report: Solar Energy per Person Grew 37% Last Year in Maine**—the growth rate put Maine the 21<sup>st</sup> in the country for solar power capacity per person added in 2014, behind its neighbors in New England, New Hampshire and Vermont, third and fourth in the country for solar capacity per capita added last year. The study was conducted by Environment Maine Research and Policy, whose findings "show that policy choices are a key driver of solar energy growth...state and local government policy leadership is closely aligned with success in growing solar energy". To read more, [click here](#).

## Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

- ✓ Adjust your thermostat at home or get a programmable thermostat. A good rule of thumb to follow is letting your thermostat rest at 68 degrees Fahrenheit when you're at home then adjust it when you are out of the house or sleeping.
- ✓ If you have a screen door, replace it with a glass door in the fall. Screen doors are great for the spring and summer, but as temperatures drop heat escapes fast—glass will not only retain heat better, but will allow sunlight to penetrate through, providing some additional warmth.
- ✓ It is never too early to start thinking about dressing your windows for the colder days to come. Window inserts are custom built and can be used year after year. Follow [this link](#) to learn how to build your very own window inserts which will save you money and bring you comfort.

## Did you know...?

...you could be racking up energy bills without even realizing it? With temperatures lowering and days getting shorter it is expected that energy bills will increase. The U.S. Department of Energy looked at the average home's energy use, resulting in the following breakdown: 42% space heating, 18% water heating, 6% cooling, 5% lighting, 5% refrigeration, and 24% other. This means that heating is the top energy source used in homes.

...the typical U.S. family spends more than **\$2,200** a year for home utility bills? Knowing how to reduce those costs should be a priority for homeowners. Knowing how to maintain and control your energy used in your home will help lower costs in addition to improving the health of your home.

...ideally, your water heater should be as close as possible to the kitchen, laundry rooms and bathrooms? This increases your energy efficiency by limiting the distance that hot water has to travel from the appliance to the faucets. Keep this in mind if you are building or redesigning your home.

...that with a \$500 rebate, a \$1,000 heat pump water heater costs only \$100 more than a traditional electric water heater? With average savings of \$250 per year, this is a 5-month payback. [Click here](#) for Efficiency Maine's rebate form.

**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.