




Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 4, Issue 10 October 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 here with winter not far behind. How do you get your home ready for the colder months to come?

REAC is looking for one more member! 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-October 2016

Event	Date/Time/Location	Description
2016 Indie Biz Awards 	October 6 6:00-9:00pm Portland House of Music and Events 25 Temple St., Portland	This event is a celebration of Portland’s vibrant independent businesses and community organizations and showcases live music, a silent auction, and local food and brews. This is their 9 th Annual Celebration, for more information visit the event’s Facebook page here .
Feeding the 5,000 	October 7 11:00am-4:00pm Monument Sq., Portland	The Natural Resources Council of Maine will be a part of the coalition of organizations hosting <i>Feeding the 5,000</i> , a free community meal for thousands of people sourced from locally gathered, fresh food that would otherwise be wasted. This event is intended to raise awareness and to address solutions to the tragic amount of food being wasted in our community. For more information about the event you can contact Sarah Lakeman, NRCM’s Sustainable Maine Project Director at (207) 430-0170 or slakeman@nrcm.org .
Evening for the Environment  Maine Conservation Alliance <i>The United Voice for Maine's Environment</i>	October 12 5:30-8:00pm 58 Fore St., Building #2, Portland	Join the Maine Conservation Alliance as they celebrate 100 years of the National Park Services and the New Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. They will have Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior, as their keynote, and will be presenting the Harrison L. Richardson Environmental Leadership Award to the Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce. For more event information, and to register, follow this link .

<p>Portland Tool Library Open House and Cider Pressing</p> 	<p>October 15 9:00am-2:00pm 224 Anderson St., Portland</p>	<p>Come on down to the Tool Library to press cider, talk tools, and meet lots of people. Feel free to bring apples and containers to take home cider. They will also have tools out for demonstration and discussions so come with questions and ideas to share. They will be selling extra tools and the band, <i>Sister Steel</i>, will be there playing steel drum music. There will be snacks provided, but don't hesitate to bring some to share with others. For more information, visit their site here.</p>
<p>GrowSmart Maine— Summit '16 Leaning Into Change: Maine-Grown Solutions</p> 	<p>October 19 9:00am-4:30pm Reception 4:30-5:30 Thomas College 180 West River Rd., Waterville</p>	<p>Come to GrowSmart Maine's fall summit—Leaning Into Change—to discover how to move your piece of Maine in the right direction, without losing what you love most. Morning tours will take place around Waterville and the afternoon sessions will take place at Thomas College. For the full agenda, and to register, click here.</p>
<p>E2Tech Forum: New England Energy Outlook</p> 	<p>October 20 7:15-10:00am Congregation Bet Ha'am 81 Westbrook St., South Portland</p>	<p>This forum examines all that is unfolding in New England's electricity grid and market, and how regional players are increasing reliability at the most competitive price, incentivizing innovation, and working with state policymakers to manage all of these changes. Speakers include Eric Johnson, Director of External Affairs with ISO New England, and others to be announced soon. For more information and to register, follow this link.</p>
<p>Sierra Club's Annual Dinner</p> 	<p>October 22 5:00-9:00pm Wolfe's Neck Farm 184 Burnett Rd., Freeport</p>	<p>Celebrate Maine's environmental victories at the Sierra Club Maine's Annual Dinner. Their featured speakers will be Lucas St. Clair, who led the successful coalition effort to persuade President Obama to designate the new Katahdin Woods and Water National Monument, and Sierra Club Deputy National Program Director Michael Bosse, who will talk about the importance of local action to address the climate crisis. For more information, click here.</p>

<p>“Statesman: George Mitchell and the Art of Possible”</p>  <p>Natural Resources Council of Maine</p>	<p>October 24 6:00pm Curtis Memorial Library 23 Pleasant St., Brunswick</p>	<p>Join the Natural Resources Council of Maine at the Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick for a reading from <u>Statesman: George Mitchell and the Art of the Possible</u>, by veteran Maine journalist, columnist, and author Douglas Rooks. The focus of this reading will be The Clean Air Act of 1990: how Senator George Mitchell guided a key environmental law to passage over opposition from automakers, business lobbyists, and members of his own party – and what that legacy means in Maine today. After the reading, NRCM Climate and Clean Energy Project Director Dylan Voorhees will moderate an audience Q&A.</p> <p>The program begins with a reception at 6:00 p.m., followed by the program at 6:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.</p>
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Energy News

Sea Level Rises to Scarborough’s Attention—as global temperature rises, increasing the likelihood of more unpredictable weather patterns and severe tides, a major blizzard or flood could inundate low-lying coastal land. Factoring in public and private buildings and roadways within Federal Emergency Management Agency flood maps, Scarborough has about \$124 million worth of taxable value – about 1,200 structures – at risk in the 100-year flood map. For the full article, follow [this link](#).

Despite Energy Deal Loss, Huge Wind Farm is Still on Track in Aroostook—despite the termination of an electricity purchase agreement, plans for what would be the largest wind farm in the state proposed for the Unorganized Territory of central Aroostook County is still on track, according to the company behind the project.

Maine Winters to get Warmer This Century, Study Shows—winters in mid-21st century America will be warmer and shorter than they are now, an article in this month’s Journal of Climate said, sounding another alarm about the impacts of global warming. To read the full article [click here](#).

Public Utilities Commission Invites Comments on Proposed Net Energy Billing Rule— on September 13, 2016, the Maine Public Utilities Commission approved a Notice of Rulemaking on Chapter 313, the Customer Net Energy Billing Rule. The commissioners approved issuing for comment a proposed rule that would make several changes to Chapter 313. Under the commission’s current rule, generation from a customer’s generating facility may be used as a kWh credit (currently energy plus transmission and distribution charges) to offset that customer’s electricity usage. To read more on the proposal, visit the PUC’s website where you’ll find more detail [here](#).

Energy Department Awards More than \$20 Million for Wave and Tidal Projects— Ocean Renewable Power Company of Portland, Maine, will enhance the performance of its tidal turbine system by integrating several advanced component technologies. The device’s novel floating design will move the turbine near the surface to capture higher flow velocities and will help reduce the cost of installation and on-water operations, ultimately lowering the cost of energy. This project will demonstrate and monitor turbine performance during its deployment in the Western Passage off the coast of Maine. Read more by following [this link](#).

Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

Fall is the perfect time to prepare your home for the colder winter months to come. For more detailed instruction to what's below, follow [this link](#).

- **Get your mind in the gutters.** Inspect and clean gutters and downspouts.
- **Button up your overcoat.** Seal gaps and cracks around windows and doors with weather-stripping and caulk.
- **Get on top of roof problems.** Inspect your roof for damaged or curled shingles, corroded flashing, or leaky vents.
- **Walks the walks (and drives).** Take steps to repair damaged sidewalks, driveways, and steps.
- **Chill out.** Drain and winterize outdoor faucets and irrigation systems.
- **Freshen your filter.** Clean or replace dirty furnace filters.
- **Give your furnace a physical.** Have a professional inspect your heating system.
- **Gather round the hearth.** Check fireplaces for soot or creosote build-up. Better yet, schedule a visit from a reputable chimney sweep.
- **Keep the humidifier humming.** Clean the plates or pads to ensure efficient operation.
- **Head-off gas problems.** If you have a gas-fired room heater, have it inspected by a pro. Also, perform any routine maintenance recommended by the maker.
- **Keep the wood fires burning brightly.** Wood stoves are making a comeback. To avoid a deadly situation, be sure to inspect yours before firing it up.
- **Keep your family safe at home.** A home safety check should be an annual ritual in every household. Test smoke and CO monitors, inspect (or install) fire extinguishers, review fire escape plans, and rid your home of old newspapers and other fire hazards.

Did you know...?

...when you're asleep at night, adjusting your thermostat back 10°-15° can save around 10% a year on your heating bills?

...that water heating accounts for about 18% of the energy consumed in your home?

...an appliance constantly taking in 1 watt of electrical current is equivalent to 9kWh per year, adding up to \$1 in annual costs? (Approximately \$1/watt/year). Considering how many appliances are used in an average household, the U.S. Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory averages these cost can quickly add up to \$100-200 a year in an average household.

...small appliances such as hair dryers, electric shavers and coffee makers can cost you money if left plugged in when not in use? Granted these appliances may only draw 1-3 watts when off, but getting in the habit of unplugging them could save you some money over the year.

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.