



Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 3, Issue 10 October 2015 – Falmouth, Maine

- 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 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!
- 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- October 2015

Event	Date/Time/Location	Description
<p>Maine Energy Services at the Fryeburg Fair</p> 	<p>October 4-11 Fryeburg Fair 1154 Main St., PO Box 78</p>	<p>Throughout the year, Maine Energy Systems participates in trade shows and open houses across the Northeast. Many times, they have a fully operational wood pellet boiler system on display. If you’re already planning to attend the Fryeburg Fair, and have an interest in learning more about wood pellet whole-house heating systems, stop by Maine Energy Systems booth to get more information.</p>
<p>Going Solar in Scarborough</p> 	<p>October 8 6:30-8:00pm Scarborough High School, Rm A100 11 Municipal Dr., Scarborough</p>	<p>Maine has an abundance of solar energy, about 30% more than Germany, who is the global leader in solar energy installations. How can you capture this abundant resource, benefit financially and have a positive impact on climate? Learn about solar hot water systems, solar space heating, solar electricity, efficient heating systems, electric vehicle charging stations and more. Find out what makes your home a good site for solar systems, how much these systems cost, what available incentives there are, what loan programs are available, and what you can expect for a return on your investment. For more information, click here.</p>

<p>Maine Walk for Peace Militarization of the Seas: the Pentagon's Impacts on the Ocean</p> 	<p>October 9-24 From Ellsworth, ME to Portsmouth NH along Route 1 Detailed information with maps</p> <p>For more information, call: (207)443-9502, or email globalnet@mindspring.com</p>	<p>Maine Walk for Peace is sponsored by Maine Veterans for Peace—Tom Sturtevant Chapter, which is a non-profit educational and humanitarian organization dedication to the abolition of war. Pier-sided testing of sonar occurs at Bath Iron Works and at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, which has resulted in significant fish kills. This group intends to walk to bring attention to these and other crucial issues of how the military is imposing negative impacts to the oceans. Help them in carrying this message to the public by joining them.</p>
<p>Fall Festival at Wolfe's Neck Farm</p> 	<p>October 10 10:00am-3:00pm Wolfe's Neck Farm 184 Burnett Rd., Freeport</p>	<p>Come out to celebrate the beauty and bounty of autumn in Maine at the oceanfront nonprofit farm, Wolfe's Neck, in celebration of sustainable agriculture. Admission is \$8 a person; children ages 3 and younger are free. Come meet the animals, see demonstrations, enjoy live music and enjoy great local foods with friends and family.</p>
<p>Portland Greendrinks</p> 	<p>October 13 Visit their website by clicking here for event information</p>	<p>Portland Greendrinks is part of an international Greendrinks network—an informal, volunteer-managed social networking group built around a common interest in the natural environment. Portland Greendrinks is dedicated to creating a more environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable community by supporting local organizations, businesses and green initiatives. They get together the second Tuesday of each month, don't miss out on this fun networking monthly event!</p>
<p>Mitchell Lecture on Sustainability: When Science Meets Politics: Symphony or Slugfest?</p> 	<p>October 15 1:00-4:00pm Wells Conference Center University of Maine, Orono 50 College Ave., Orono</p>	<p>Senator, George Mitchell and keynote speaker, Roger Pielke will take the stage to discuss climate science. Pielke's research focuses on science, innovation and politics. In addition to his impressive research, he is author and co-author of seven books. His most recent book is <i>Rightful Place of Science: Disasters and Climate Change</i>. To register for this event, follow this link.</p>

<p>Maine Climate Action Grassroots Gathering</p> 	<p>October 17 8:00am-6:00pm Unity College 90 Quaker Hill Rd., Unity</p>	<p>The Maine Sierra Club invites you to this all-day event featuring workshops on local climate and clean energy solutions in Maine. Expect inspiring and practical presentations on community solar farms and town solar programs, energy efficiency outreach, plastic bag bans and waste reduction programs, local organizing of best practices, community gardens, obtaining local funding and so much more.</p>
<p>Solar Powering Your Community</p> 	<p>October 23 10:00am-3:00pm Skidompha Public Library 184 Main St., Damariscotta</p>	<p>On behalf of the National Association of Regional Councils and the Midcoast Economic Development District, all are invited to this free community solar workshop. This interactive workshop will provide actionable information on creating local-level solar program with a focus on: the benefits and barriers of solar development; planning for solar: getting solar ready; understanding the regulatory landscape of solar; and innovative financing options for solar projects. Email questions to taylor@narc.org</p>
<p>Course: Change is Our Choice</p> 	<p>October 28 7:00-8:30pm Allen Avenue Universalist Unitarian Church 524 Allen Ave., Portland</p>	<p>Northwest Earth Institute is a non-profit organization that inspires people to take responsibility of the Earth. Take Northwest Earth Institute's newest 4 week course to learn to create and lead climate solutions, right in Portland! In this 4-session discussion course, you will: explore climate change from a scientific, psychological and social perspectives; consider how you can take action to build resilience in your own community; make and implement a plan of action to respond to climate change effects in your community; and consider how you can take action on climate change on a larger scale. For more information, follow this link.</p>
<p>Green Streets Walk & Ride Day</p> 	<p>October 30 6:00am-8:00pm All over Portland</p>	<p>Portland Green Streets Day is a monthly, city-wide day of getting around green. It takes place the last Friday of each month. Organizers encourage folks to wear green showing their participation in alternative transportation. You can walk, bike, ride a skateboard, jog, take the bus etc. There are many ways to get around green so come show your support!</p>

Energy News

Shell Stops Arctic Activity after ‘Disappointing’ Test—Royal Dutch Shell has stopped Arctic oil and gas exploration off the coast of Alaska after “disappointing” results from a key well in the Chukchi Sea, stating they have ceased exploration “for the foreseeable future”. Seven billion dollars has been spent exploring the Chukchi and Beaufort seas; noted by some to be a “risky endeavor.” Lorde Browne, former BP boss and government adviser, told the BBC that the Arctic is, “very risky place [to explore] and very expensive to develop, so there are probably easier places to go”. To read the full article, follow [this link](#).

Obama to Call for More Icebreakers in Arctic as U.S. Seeks Foothold—in early September, after traveling to Alaska, President Obama proposed speeding the acquisition and building of new Coast Guard icebreakers that can operate year round in the nation’s polar region; part of an effort to close the gap between the United States and other nations, especially Russia, in the global competition to gain a foothold in the rapidly changing Arctic. For more information on this topic, [click here](#).

Plan: Maine to Get 70% of Power from Wind by 2050—a group of Sanford University researchers are calling their work “The Solutions Project,” which presents a roadmap detailing how each of the 50 United States can provide all of its energy needs from wind, water and sunlight by 2050. The Plan for Maine includes 70% of our power needs coming from wind power, 50% which is land-based and the other nearly 50% from offshore wind projects. For more on their work, follow [this link](#).

Green Consumer Tips & How-To’s

- Take advantage of heat from the sun
- Cover drafty windows
- Adjust the temperature
- Find and seal leaks
- Maintain your heating system

For detailed information on the tips above, and for more fall home energy saving tips, visit [this site](#)

Did you know...?

...over 150 municipalities have implemented ordinances to regulate single-use shopping bags, many of which ban plastic shopping bags all together?

...National Geographic has estimated 5.25 trillion plastic particles, weighing nearly 269,000 tons are currently floating in the world’s oceans?

...lighting accounts for as much as 10% of your electricity bill? If you haven’t already, make the switch to more efficient options such as CFLs and LEDs.

...on average, households lose about 20% of their heated and cooled air through the duct systems to the outside? To avoid wasted energy, have your ducts inspected and ensure they are sealed and insulated properly.

...that UPS in Falmouth has a Styrofoam collection program?

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.