



Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)


“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 4, Issue 12 December 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.

REAC is looking for more 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-December 2016

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date/Time/Location</i>	<i>Description</i>
E2Tech December Forum & Holiday Reception 	December 8 4:00-7:30pm Cloudport 63 Federal St., Portland	The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is driving clean energy innovation in Northeast while enabling states to achieve their climate goals cost-effectively. This forum examines RGGI’s cap-and-trade system and how it works; evaluates RGGI’s performance so far; looks at the role RGGI plays in achieving state greenhouse gas reduction and energy saving goals; and weighs revisions and alternatives for the future. For more information and to register, follow this link .
Portland Greendrinks, featuring Reverb 	December 8 5:30-8:00pm Port City Music Hall 504 Congress St., Portland	Portland Greendrinks is part of the international Greendrinks network—an informal, volunteer managed social networking group built around a common interest in the natural environment. It occurs the second Tuesday of each month, and the December event will feature Reverb, a nonprofit 501(c) (3) founded in 2004 by environmentalist Lauren Sullivan and her husband, a local musician. Reverb creates and executes comprehensive, custom programs to green the tour itself while engaging concertgoers to take action for the environment. For more information on this event, please follow this link .

<p>Lift360 Leadership in Action Breakfast Series</p> <p>Strengthening leaders, organizations and communities</p> 	<p>December 14 7:00am Holiday Inn by the Bay 88 Spring St., Portland</p>	<p>Lift360's Breakfast Series will connect you with prominent, skilled, and insightful leaders in our community. Over the course of the year, the four-part series addresses different topics and issues from the perspective of our leaders. The Breakfast Series is designed for those in the nonprofit, private, and public sectors who wish to engage with and learn from those in our community who are making a significant impact in their leadership roles. More detail and registration information can be found here.</p>
<p>Portland Local Food Networking Breakfast</p>	<p>December 20 8:30am Local Sprouts Café 649 Congress St., Portland</p>	<p>All are welcome for breakfast and talk of local food! This event is a casual breakfast with food organizers, advocates and producers of our community. All food is cooked with local ingredients. This event is a great chance to promote your work and organizations to your peers—networking is encouraged! For more information, and to learn more, follow this link.</p>
<p>Preparing for Sea Level Rise in Maine</p> 	<p>December 28 5:30-6:30pm Portland Public Library 5 Monument Sq., Portland</p>	<p>The impacts of climate change are becoming increasingly visible in our state and across the nation. Intense storms, unusual temperatures, and ocean warming are just some of the climate-related stories covered in local news. Sea level rise, however, is less visible, as are the compounding effects of storm surge and extreme precipitation events. Ensuring the region's resiliency to sea level rise clearly requires a scientifically informed and engaged public, now and in the future. Join organizers to explore the data behind sea level rise and models projecting its future impacts. The Portland Sustainability Series will present a diversity of speakers to share different aspects of the work moving Maine to greater endurance and sustainability. More event information can be found here.</p>
<p>NRCM's 9th Annual Polar Bear Dip & Dash</p> 	<p>December 31 9:00am-1:00pm Back Cove Trail, Portland</p>	<p>Join NRCM as they work to raise awareness about climate change and funds in support of their work to keep Maine a special place. Energy efficiency, clean air, and renewable energy sources are a priority for NRCM. Every cent that they raise from the Dip & Dash will support their for a clean energy future in Maine. For more information, follow this link.</p>

Energy News

Swiss Family Warns Portland about Climate Change—on Oct. 28, Dario Schwörer, Sabine Schwörer, and their children Salina, Andri, Noe, Alegra and Mia were at Ri Ra Irish Pub on Commercial Street to share warnings about climate change, rising sea levels and environmental damages they have seen in 16 years of sailing around the globe. Read the full story, [here](#).

Small Group of Monhegan Residents Renews Fight against Offshore Turbines—critics raise \$40,000 and want the towers moved farther away, but others on the island have accepted the full-scale test project. Follow [this link](#) to read more.

South Portland's Legal Fees Creep Toward \$1 Million in Pipeline Lawsuit—the cost of defending the controversial Clear Skies ordinance against a federal law suit by the Portland Pipe Line Corp. has crept near \$1million, but donations to the city's Clear Skies Legal Defense Fund have topped \$100,000, with substantial contributions from two anonymous sources, according to the city's manager's office. Read the full article [here](#).

Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

6 WAYS TO GREEN YOUR HOLIDAY

BEST: A live, potted, local tree
A potted, native tree is a good choice if you can plant and care for it after the holidays, or try has an organization like [Friends of the Urban Forest](#) that will take back your tree and plant it for you.

BETTER: A local, sustainable tree
Local Harvest features a list of beautiful live Christmas tree providers across the country. Afterwards you can turn your tree into wood chips or compost with [Earth 911](#)

OKAY: Artificial trees made in the U.S.
Fake trees are often made in China with harmful plastics that are non-recyclable. To minimize your carbon imprint, consider buying from [U.S. Christmas Tree](#)

If you're planning to drive, try renting a hybrid or carpooling. If you must fly, consider **CARBON OFFSETS**

Instead of coming home with 15 shopping bags, bring your own to the store.

By switching to **LED lights**, you'll save power even while keeping the holiday spirit bright — some LED strands are even **solar-powered**.

1.9 BILLION CHRISTMAS CARDS ARE SENT IN THE U.S. EVERY YEAR

Consider sending our **ecards** or buy recycled cards

Refashion old greeting cards into gift tags, postcards, and tree ornaments

For parties, use **metal flatware and real glasses and dishes**.

Use cloth tablecloths instead of throwaways.

SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Did you know...?

...that Efficiency Maine still has rebates on heat pump water heaters?



With their \$500 rebate and the \$300 federal tax credit, there's never been a better time to buy a heat pump water heater. But the tax credit expires 12/31/2016. This combined \$800, plus the more than \$3,000 in electricity savings over the life of the unit compared to electric water heaters, make heat pump water heaters an attractive choice. Their long warranties and dehumidification capability make them even more popular. [Click here](#) for details on the \$500 rebate and \$300 tax credit or call us at 866-376-2463.



...that Falmouth Elementary School is participating in a sustainability-themed invention in a national "Made by Milk" competition? Their hopes are to win funds to support wellness and sustainability via the school PTO. They used over 400 milk cartons recycled in the school cafeteria to create an invention they called Cyclelectric Car (a plug-in electric car that can also be recharged by pedaling while driving). The submissions will be judged in January, but there is also a People's Choice voting opportunity through December 8th—check it out and consider voting by following [this link](#).

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.