

Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 4, Issue 8 August 2016 – Falmouth, Maine



- Have you had an energy audit or assessment done through Efficiency Maine or independently? Drop us a line at react@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—summer is in full swing! How do you keep the waste and energy consumption down while barbecuing, entertaining guests, or going on trips?

REAC is looking for new 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- August 2016

Event	Date/Time/Location	Description
<p>Nature Sketching by Canoe</p> 	<p>August 2 2:00-3:30pm Scarborough Marsh Audubon Center, 92 Pine Point Rd, Scarborough</p>	<p>This guided canoe tour will give artists of all ages a unique opportunity to practice nature sketching. Participants will view nature close-up while slowly paddling in the midst of the ever-changing salt marsh. The winding curves of the river, populated with snowy egret and the double crested cormorant, will provide endless opportunities for artistic inspiration. Whether you are interested in sketching landscapes, wildlife or both, this canoe tour will be a unique experience for all.</p>
<p>Food Preservation—Hands-on Workshops Topic: Preserving pickles</p> 	<p>August 4 5:30-8:30pm UMaine's Regional Learning Center 75 Clearwater Dr., Falmouth</p>	<p>Ever wonder how to preserve all those great garden vegetables? UMaine's cooperative Extension's hands-on food preservation workshops will teach you the basics of canning and freezing, including how to use pressure canners and water bath canners to preserve pickles, jam, and vegetables. Learn more by following this link.</p>

<p>Portland Greendrinks</p> 	<p>August 9 5:30pm Location TBD Greendrinks website</p>	<p>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. The goal of Greendrinks is pretty simple: good times shared among people working in, or interested in, environmental and sustainability issues.</p>
<p>Family Nature Walk— Mummichugs and Marsh Muck</p>	<p>August 10 10:30am-12:00pm Scarborough Marsh Audubon Center 92 Pine Point Rd., Scarborough</p>	<p>Explore the marsh for plants and animals through discover-oriented, fun-filled activities that use all five senses. Participants will touch the marsh fish, the mummichug, look for the many migrating and resident birds, and look through algae to discover the minute creatures living there. This program is for “children” of all ages. Visit this link for more event information.</p>
<p>Portland 2030 District Summit</p> 	<p>August 10 11:30am-1:30pm Location TBD</p>	<p>Learn how large building developers, owners and managers—including multi-family housing—on Portland’s peninsula can help reduce energy consumption and costs.</p> <p>For more information, contact Jennifer Brennan at jpuser@gpcog.org or by phone at (207)774-9891.</p>
<p>Family Farm Celebration— Farm-to-Table Dinner</p>	<p>August 14 5:00-8:00pm Wolfe’s Neck Farm 184 Burnett Rd., Freeport</p>	<p>Bring the family to Wolfe’s Neck Farm for a delicious wood-fired meal with Fire and Company, including pizza with garden fresh toppings, and Wolfe’s Neck Farm’s meat. Join folks for this fun-filled evening of great food, drinks, local music and kids’ activities. Follow this link for ticket information</p>
<p>Portland Local Food Networking Breakfast</p>	<p>August 16 8:30am Local Sprouts Café 649 Congress St., Portland</p>	<p>All are welcome for breakfast and talk of local food! This is a casual breakfast with the food organizers, advocates and producers of our community. All food is cooked with all local ingredients. This is a great chance to promote your work and organizations to your peers; networking is strongly encouraged!</p>

<p>Maine Permaculture Day</p> 	<p>August 20 9:00am-5:00pm All across Maine</p>	<p>This will be a day to celebrate the evolving work of the permaculture community in Maine, including those working with regenerative agriculture practices like agroforestry, silvopasture, keyline design and more. The event is put together by the Resilience Hub—they will publish a directory and map to Maine Permaculture Day events the week before August 20—stay tuned!</p>
<p>Bow Ties & Bean Boots 2016</p> 	<p>August 26 6:00-10:00pm The Portland Company 58 Fore St., Portland</p>	<p><i>Teens to Trails</i> is a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing the opportunities for Maine teens to experience the outdoors through a variety of programs that promote high school outing clubs across the state. This event—Bow Ties & Bean Boots—is a night to support Teens to Trails with music, live and silent auctions, brews and more. Follow this link for more information including ticket pricing.</p>

Energy News

Bangor Officials Exploring Ban or Fee on Plastic Shopping Bags in the City—Jay Dresser, a Bangor resident wants the city to ban the sale and distribution of plastic shopping bags and polystyrene (styrofoam) containers. Dresser also wants Brewer to consider a separate ordinance, read more [here](#).

Topsham Voters May Enact Fee on Single-Use Bags—a 5 cent fee on single-use shopping bags at some businesses may go to town voters in November. Read the full story [here](#).

Rockland Citizens Group Hails New Local Power Plant Regulations—the ordinances were in response to a proposal last year to build a natural-gas fired plant that would have produced electricity and steam. The ordinances require that any power plant must reduce net air emissions in Rockland, sets a cap on water usage, and imposes aggressive water and recycling standards and requires preparation of a decommissioning plan before approval by local authorities. For the full article, follow [this link](#).

Environmental Group Criticizes State Permitting of New Trash-to-Energy Facility—The Maine Department of Environmental Protection has approved a \$69 million trash-to-energy facility in Camden. Construction of the facility is scheduled to being in 2017. Environmentalists have their concerns, read more [here](#). Another news release from the Portland Press Herald on this story can be found by following [this link](#).

China, Vassalboro Among Towns to Benefit from CMP Project—CMP is building a new substation in South China to improve the energy grid. The company is spending \$5.4 million on the project, which will affect homes and businesses in Palermo, Windsor, Liberty, Freedom, Vassalboro and China. Growth, both residential and commercial in these communities has created a need for a newer system with more power to serve the larger population.

South Portland Moves Ahead with Solar Proposal on Former Landfill—City officials have worked with counterparts in Portland to negotiate a favorable deal with ReVision Energy to build 660 kilowatt arrays atop each city's capped landfill. The proposal will be presented at a South Portland City Council workshop on August 22, where a formal vote will follow at a regular City Council meeting. For the full article, follow [this link](#).

\$15.4 Billion Invested in European Offshore Wind—the first six months of 2016 saw a record 14 billion euros of new investment in Europe's offshore wind industry, however the number of new installations is dropping off. Read more by clicking [here](#).

Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

It has been one HOT Summer. Here are some ways to keep your home and yourself cool:

- Keep the shades drawn during the day
- Reflect the heat with reflective window film
- Let the cool evening air in
- Insulate! Grab a caulk gun and seal off anywhere that air might be leaking
- Get rid of incandescent lights—they are suckers for energy and they give off heat
- Make sure you ceiling fans are running counter clockwise
- Drink icy beverages
- Dress in loose-fitting clothes
- Grab a towel soaked in cold water to keep cool
- Avoid the oven or stove when cooking
- Dry your clothes on the line outside if you're able
- Avoid hot showers; cool showers will keep your body temperature down

Did you know...?

...that there will be a bicycle network that connects Florida to Maine? The East Coast Greenway is a developing trail system, which is over 30% of the route is already on traffic-free greenways. Check out the website, [Green Way](#).

...that most major appliances give off heat when in use? During peak daytime temperatures, the heat can put unnecessary strain on your home's cooling system (if you have one), and raise your electric bill. Run your appliances at night when it's cooler.

...that maintenance is required on heat pumps? The difference between the energy consumption of a well-maintained heat pump and a severely neglected one ranges from 10% to 25%. You should have a professional technical service your heat pump at least once a year. To learn more about this process, [follow this link](#).

...that water heating accounts for about 18% of the energy consumed in your home? Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F) to save energy.

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.