




## Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)




“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 5, Issue 4, April, 2017 – Falmouth, Maine

- It’s spring! What are your home energy plans as the days are getting warmer?
- 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!
- Have a question about home energy, or waste diversion? We’re happy to help find you answers.

## Calendar of Local Green Events- April, 2017

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date/Time/Location</b>	<b>Description</b>
 <p><b>NRCM’s Citizen Action Day</b></p> <p>Natural Resources Council of Maine</p>	<p>April 4 8:00am-1:00pm NRCM’s Office, Maine State House 3 Wade St., Augusta</p>	<p>At NRCM’s Citizen Action Day, participants will hear from NRCM’s staff experts first hand. They will provide information on their priority environmental bills, share tips on how to communicate effectively with legislators, escort folks to the State House and assist them with finding their legislators, and make sure that everyone leaves Augusta having made a difference. For more information and to register, follow <a href="#">this link</a>.</p>
 <p><b>MOFGA’s Grow Your Own Organic Garden</b></p>	<p>April 5 6:00-9:00pm Scarborough High School 11 Municipal Dr., Scarborough</p>	<p>Eating the organic way, with a garden of your own, yields powerful benefits to both health and the environment. This class covers: basics of soil science, how to enrich soil to produce healthy, high-yielding plants, making and using compost, principles of crop rotation, incorporating green manures and managing nutrients, differences between cultivates plants and weeds, weed control strategies, and natural insect control. For more information, <a href="#">click here</a>.</p>
 <p><b>Portland Home Energy Fair</b></p>	<p>April 8 10:00am-3:00pm Ocean Avenue Elementary School 150 Ocean Ave., Portland</p>	<p>Learn about new and affordable ways to make your home more energy efficient at these free events. Exhibitors will share their insight on the use of solar power, pellet boilers, biofuels, energy audits, weatherization, heat pumps, financing and more. This event is free; there are children’s activities and door prizes. For more information, follow <a href="#">this link</a>.</p>

<p><b>REAC Movie Night!</b>  <b>“Ocean Frontiers III: A New Era in Ocean Stewardship”</b></p> 	<p>April 11  7:00pm  Falmouth Memorial Library  5 Lunt Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>REAC and Falmouth Memorial Library invite you to a screening of “Ocean Frontiers III: Leaders in Ocean Stewardship &amp; the New Blue Economy” which will be followed by a brief discussion. This is a powerful film that chronicles our efforts to plan for a healthy, safe, and sustainable future. It explores the intersections of national security, maritime commerce, fishing, and recreation, plus expanding industries such as offshore wind energy and aquaculture, coupled with scientific discovery. We’ll see you there!</p>
<p><b>Business Energy Fair</b></p>  	<p>April 12  12:00-7:00pm  Lunt Auditorium, OceanView  74 Lunt Rd., Falmouth</p> 	<p>The Town of Falmouth and the Falmouth/Cumberland Community Chamber are hosting a <b>Business Energy Fair</b> to help businesses save on energy expenses. If you’re a business owner, or work for a business that could benefit from this free event, come join us! This daytime tradeshow will be followed by a “Business after 5” networking event in the evening. For a list of vendors and for more information, follow <a href="#">this link</a>.</p>
<p><b>Maine Environmental Sustainability Network &amp; GrowSmart Maine Panel</b>  <b>Discussion: Reimagining our Rivers: Restoration &amp; Dam Removal in Maine</b></p> 	<p>April 12  8:30-10:30am  Maine Audubon  20 Gilsland Farm Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>Presenters from the conservation and municipal sectors will guide a discussion that includes the history of rivers and their uses in Maine, the current conditions of Maine’s waterways, and the promise of healthy rivers for future Mainers. Join the conversation in an exploration of how communities can reimagine and reembrace rivers in their backyards. Hear stories and learn from those who have successfully restored and are continuing the work to restore Maine’s rivers, large and small. For more information and to register, <a href="#">click here</a>.</p>
<p><b>Networking Reception &amp; CleanTech Open Maine Kick-Off</b></p> 	<p>April 13  5:30-7:30pm  Cloudport  63 Federal St., Portland</p>	<p>The CleanTech open is the oldest and largest cleantech startup accelerator program, with the mission to find, fund and foster entrepreneurs with ideas to solve our largest environmental and energy challenges. At this event, you will hear from CleanTech staff about how this program can be beneficial to your work, and also hear from business owners who have successfully competed in the CleanTech open last year. For more information, and to register, follow <a href="#">this link</a>.</p>

<p><b>6<sup>th</sup> Annual Urban Runoff 5K</b></p>  <p><b>URBAN RUNOFF</b></p>	<p>April 22 9:00am-12:00pm Deering High School 370 Stevens Ave., Portland</p>	<p>Runners will hit the streets and trails of Portland for the Annual <i>Urban Runoff 5K</i> race and walk to raise awareness of water pollution and raise money to support clean water education in the greater Portland and Saco areas. The date of the race was chosen to coincide with Earth Day and springs “first flush” when rain and melted snow wash pollution into the waterways. The event will be followed by the City of Portland’s Green Neighbor Family Fest. Follow <a href="#">this link</a> to learn more and to register.</p>
<p><b>March for Science</b></p> 	<p>April 22 2:00-4:00pm Boston Common Tremont St., Boston</p>	<p>This <i>Rally for Science</i> celebrates the discovery, understanding and sharing of scientific knowledge as crucial to the success, health and safety of the human race. Organizers will unite as a diverse and nonpartisan group to celebrate Boston as a space for scientists and scientific research to support five main goals: communication, funding, policy, literacy and improvement. This rally is being held in parallel to the <i>Scientists March on Washington DC</i>. For more information, <a href="#">click here</a>.</p>
<p><b>Great Maine Bike Swap</b></p> 	<p>April 23 10:00am-1:00pm USM Sullivan Recreation &amp; Fitness Center, 66 Falmouth St., Portland</p>	<p>Choose from hundreds of bikes in all price ranges and all of types including road bikes, mountain bikes and children’s bikes. You can also sell or donate the unused bikes you may have around your house or garage. Area bike shops will be on site selling bike parts, accessories, helmets and more. For more event details, follow <a href="#">this link</a>.</p>
<p><b>7<sup>th</sup> Annual Island Energy Conference</b></p> 	<p>April 27-29  April 28 Congregation Bet Ha’am 81 Westbrook St., South Portland  April 29 Trip to Monhegan Island</p>	<p>This year’s event will highlight how New England’s islands are charting the course toward a sustainable energy future, mapping out their transitions to clean energy systems that strengthen local communities and economies. The conference will bring together 150 island leaders and energy experts from New England and beyond to discuss common energy challenges and the resources available to address them. The seventh annual Island Energy Conference will take place in South Portland on Friday, with a special kick-off reception on Thursday, and a trip to Monhegan Island on Saturday. For a full summary of the events, for more information, and to register, click <a href="#">here</a>.</p>

## Energy News

**Court Holds State Environmental Permits for Controversial Fiberight Waste Plant**—Maryland-based Fiberight is planning to build a first-in-the-nation solid waste plant in Hampden that will convert trash into biofuel—it is scheduled to be in operation next year. However, critics of the proposed plant have questioned its technical and financial feasibility. To read the full article, follow [this link](#).

**Woolwich Solar Array Heads for Town Vote**—at the April 29 annual town meeting, Woolwich voters will consider a proposal for construction of a solar array at the former landfill. The array will be built by ReVision, which has estimated the array will produce 97% of the town's electrical needs. To read more, [click here](#).

**Trump's Proposed EPA Cuts would Damage Maine's Environment and Economy, Critics Fear**—the preliminary White House plan would trim the EPA's budget by 25 percent. Sen. King calls the cuts 'deeply troubling' while Rep. Pingree says they'll hurt Maine businesses. For the full article, follow [this link](#).

**Despite making it a Priority, LePage Remains Stymied on Lowering Energy Costs**—after six years in office, the governor's accomplishments on energy are mixed. He has helped keep electric rates essentially flat, opposing measures that could make them higher than they might otherwise be. At the same time, he has largely failed to advance policies that actually lower the price of energy—his often-stated goal. To read more, [click here](#).

**Case against Maine Electricity Supplier could become Class-Action Lawsuit**—Lawyers may seek \$35 million in damages over Electricity Maine's billing practices if the case moves forward in U.S. District Court in Bangor. For the full story, follow [this link](#).

**Pepper Farmer eyes Building Biomass-Fueled Greenhouse in Maine**—the operator of a state-subsidized biomass plant in West Enfield said that it has a letter of intent with a pepper grower interested in building a greenhouse that would buy its waste heat, carbon dioxide and electricity. To read more, follow [this link](#).

## In Other News...

**In a First for Maine, Scarborough and South Portland will Start Collecting Food Waste**—Pilot programs will test an idea that officials say is the next big phase for municipal recycling because it involves almost 28 percent of household trash in the state. Both communities are offering drop off locations for organics for any resident to use who are not in the pilot programs.

South Portland is piloting 600 households with a free 6-gallon lidded bucket for disposal of food waste, picked up by Garbage-to-Garden, whom was the winner of the three companies that bid for the service.

In Scarborough, a nine-month pilot will take place for about 180 residents with a 35-gallon bin to be collected every week alongside their trash and recycling. Pine Tree Waste uses dual-body trucks and can only pick up two types of materials at a time.

**Winslow Looks to Boost use of its Community Garden**—after it was built seven years ago, the town's community garden received so many requests that they had to add more beds. Over time, though, the garden has fallen out of use. Winslow's new director of Parks and Recreation hopes to change the trend and turn the space into one of the busiest spots this spring and summer. Her plan: hold talks and classes there while improving the garden's infrastructure. For the full story, follow [this link](#).

## Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

**Spring cleaning shouldn't mean chocking on cleaning fumes or burning your eyes and skin, but sadly, nearly almost all cleaning products contain dangerous and questionable chemicals.** For ideas on natural alternatives, less wasteful supplies, and other spring cleaning tips, visit *Sustainable Baby Steps* by following [this link](#). There, you'll read about the importance of working from the top down for the most efficient clean, the importance of organizing as you go and planning ahead, and why you should always dry clean before you wet clean.

**Window screen labels**—the next time you make the seasonal switch from storm windows to screens, use a label maker or permanent marker to identify which room and specific frame or screen it fits to prevent confusion.

**If you don't have a self-cleaning oven** (which burns off residue at very high temperatures and uses a lot of energy), try this eco-friendly solution which uses baking soda and water, by following [this link](#).

**Spring is here, and it's nearly time to start gardening.** If you've been interested in saving some gardening space and want to learn more about vertical gardening, whether it being for vegetables, flowers or herbs, follow [this link](#) for some inspiration and lots of DIY ideas!

**Global Stewards** provides Green Eco Tips for Sustainable Living in order of importance. First: Reduce; Second: Reuse; Third: Recycle; Fourth: Refuse; Fifth: Rot. They also provide tips on conserving energy and water, amongst many other important tips. Visit their website full of great tips, [here](#).

## Did you know...?

...a few times a year, you should vacuum or brush dust off the back of your refrigerator's condensers coils to keep the system from overheating?

....a bundle of chalk hung in a closet will absorb extra moisture and keep clothes fresh and dry, taking up much less room than that an electric dehumidifier?

...drying one load of laundry on a clothesline cuts out 4.4 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>?

...Falmouth has partnered with **WindowDressers** out of Rockland to host a community window insert build in the fall? Here's how it works:

1. Sign up today at [www.windowdressers.org](http://www.windowdressers.org)
2. Get your windows measured this spring/early summer
3. Participate in the community build in September
4. Save on heating expenses next heating season with new custom made window inserts



INSULATING WINDOW INSERTS

Kimberly Darling, Energy and Sustainability Coordinator can be contacted with questions: [kdarling@falmouthme.org](mailto:kdarling@falmouthme.org) or (207)699-5337

**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.