







## Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)


“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 5, Issue 1 January, 2017 – Falmouth, Maine

- Have you had an energy audit or assessment done through Efficiency Maine or independently? Drop us a line at [reac@falmouthme.org](mailto: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](mailto:kdarling@falmouthme.org) with your suggestions!
- Have a question about home energy? Drop us a line, we’re happy to help find you answers.

## Calendar of Local Green Events- January, 2017

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date/Time/Location</b>	<b>Description</b>
<p><b>Maine Agricultural Trades Show</b></p> 	<p>January 10 Augusta Civic Center 76 Community Dr., Augusta</p> <p>Trade Show Hours: Tuesday, 1/10 9:00am-5:00pm Wednesday, 1/11 9:00am-7:00pm Thursday, 1/12 9:00am-3:00pm</p>	<p>Join the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry as they celebrate the 76<sup>th</sup> year of the Maine Agricultural Trades Show. This year’s show, Maine Agriculture: Local, Quality, Sustainable, will focus on the growth of local markets, the quality of farms and products and the sustainability of the industry’s future. For a full schedule of the event, visit <a href="#">their website here</a>.</p>
<p><b>Maine Environmental Sustainability Network (MESN)— Innovation Contest for Sustainability</b></p>	<p>January 11 8:30-10:30am Networking session until noon Maine Audubon 20 Gilsland Farm Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>The Maine Environmental and Sustainability Network’s mission is to help sustainability professionals, business people, community advocates, and civic leaders connect, socialize, strategize, and learn. The topic of this month’s panel discussion will be on <i>Innovation Contests for Sustainability</i>. To register, and to learn more about MESN and this event, follow <a href="#">this link</a>.</p>
<p><b>E2Tech Sate of the Environment—Maine DEP Commissioner Paul Mercer &amp; Senior Leadership Team</b></p> 	<p>January 17 7:30-10:00am Maple Hill Farm Conference Center 11 Inn Rd., Hallowell</p>	<p>E2Tech is excited to host Maine’s air, land, water, waste and other senior leaders from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to discuss environmental and regulatory challenges and goals in the year ahead. This forum will also explore ways in which the DEP assists business through the state’s regulatory environment to promote jobs and businesses in the environmental services sector. Fore more information, visit the event page <a href="#">here</a>.</p>

<p><b>Solar 101: Maine Audubon</b></p> 	<p>January 17 6:00-7:30pm Maine Audubon 20 Gilsland Farm Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>Have you ever wondered about how you can capture more solar energy? Learn how you can use this renewable resource to your benefit, become more energy efficiency, save money and have less of an impact on the climate. ReVision has partnered with Maine Audubon to bring you an educational workshop on solar energy. The event is free and open to the public, but an RSVP is appreciated to <a href="mailto:bangelo@revisionenergy.com">bangelo@revisionenergy.com</a></p>
<p><b>Maine Audubon's Speaker Series—<i>The Making of a Monument</i></b></p> 	<p>January 19 7:00-8:30pm Maine Audubon 20 Gilsland Farm Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>In August 2016, nearly 85,000 acres donated to the U.S. National Parks Service by Roxanne Quimby became the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. This multi-year conservation effort was largely spearheaded by Quimby's son, Lucas St. Clair. He and others from Elliotsville Plantation, Inc. will reflect on the process, what they learned about conservation and advocacy at the local, state, and federal levels, and what this intensive process taught them about America, Maine, our communities, and ourselves. For more information, follow <a href="#">this link</a>.</p>
<p><b>Efficiency Maine 2017 Annual Symposium</b></p> 	<p>January 27 1:00-6:00pm Hilton Garden Inn 5 Park St., Freeport</p>	<p>Join Efficiency Maine as they recognize Maine's top performers in energy efficiency. At the symposium, there will also be discussion on grid modernization and distributed energy resources. The keynote speaker will be Laney Brown, VP—Grid Modernization Strategy, Modern Grid Partners. To register for this event, follow <a href="#">this link</a>.</p>
<p><b>350 Maine—Statewide Meeting</b></p> 	<p>January 28 9:30am-3:30pm Maine Coast Waldorf School 57 Desert Rd., Freeport</p>	<p>Connect with 350 Maine supporters from across the state at the Maine Coast Waldorf School in Freeport. It's time to get together for planning, and action, for 2017! The meeting Planning Committee is organizing the event and will be sharing more information soon. For updates, find 350Maine on Facebook, or contact them at <a href="mailto:info@350maine.org">info@350maine.org</a>.</p>

<p><b>4<sup>th</sup> Annual Falmouth Home Energy Fair</b></p> 	<p>January 28 10:00am-3:00pm Falmouth Elementary School 58 Woodville Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>Join REAC, along with over twenty exhibitors at the fourth annual Home Energy Fair! Vendors include those in the field of home energy, energy efficiency, alternatives fuels, and so much more. Admission is free, children's activities are provided as well as a chance to win door prizes. For more information, contact Kimberly Darling at <a href="mailto:kdarling@falmouthme.org">kdarling@falmouthme.org</a>. We look forward to seeing you there!</p>
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## Energy News

**Maine's Largest Solar Farm Prepares to Power Up**—the project in Madison, more than twice the size of others in the state, will supply 3,000 homes and businesses, and could be fully operational this week. Read more [here](#).

**Dozens of Rural Maine Townships Opt out of Fast-Tracked Wind Power Zone**—about 40 communities ask to be removed, which means that wind power companies would have to go through a rezoning process to build in those places—some of the state's windiest areas. For the full article, follow [this link](#).

**Winslow Considers Pilot Programs for Food Waste Recycling**—a committee tasked with finding innovative ways to handle the Town's waste is piloting a recycling program that could increase diversion rates and save money. The program would recycle food waste, bringing it to Agri-Cycle Energy processing plant in Exeter. The waste would be combined with cow waste and turned into methane, which is then used to make electricity.

**Maine PUC OKs \$13.4 Million to Bail out Biomass Plants**—State regulators have formally approved \$13.4 million in contracts to bail out struggling biomass companies in Aroostook, Penobscot and Washington counties. The Maine Legislature last year passed a law to supplement the prices that the companies get for selling electricity on the regional grid for up to two years. The \$13.4 million comes from Maine's general fund. To read more, follow [this link](#).

**India's Double First in Climate Battle**—two world-leading clean energy projects have opened in the south India's state of Tamil Nadu. An industrial plant is capturing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from a coal boiler and using the CO<sub>2</sub> to make valuable chemicals—it is a world's first. Also, just 100km away is the world's biggest solar farm, making power for 150,000 homes on a 10 square km site. The industrial plant appears especially significant as it offers a breakthrough by capturing CO<sub>2</sub> without subsidy. Built at a chemical plant in the port city of Tuticorin, it is projected to save 60,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions a year by incorporating them into the chemical recipe for soda ash - otherwise known as baking soda.

**New England to Charge Ahead on Clean Energy Makeover in 2017**—New England policymakers hope to reach agreement in 2017 on revised market rules to accommodate state clean energy policies, as three states seek to complete renewable energy procurements, and Massachusetts readies for new solicitation. The plan is to move ahead to decarbonize through power purchase agreements, infrastructure improvements and potentially tighter emission caps under the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. For more, [click here](#).

**'Russian Hacking Code' Found on Vermont Utility Computer**—an electrical company in Vermont says it has found malware code allegedly used by Russian hackers on one of its company's laptops. The Burlington company said it was "working with federal officers to trace this malware and prevent any other attempts to infiltrate utility systems". It has also briefed state officials and vowed to fully support the investigation. For more, follow [this link](#).

## Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

**[How to Clean Baseboard Heaters](#)** Hot water baseboard and electric heating systems depend on air flowing through the numerous aluminum convector fins that surround a copper pipe. Keeping the fins clean increases heating efficiency and the baseboard heat radiators should be cleaned at least once a year, and more often if you have dogs or cats. Animal hair and dander can build up quickly and block the spaces between the fins, effecting efficient air flow.

**[You're kind of done with that Christmas tree. Now, what to do with it?](#)** What was a beautiful thing just days ago now may feel like a waste dilemma. Check out the article above for some insight, compost your tree at home, or drop it by the Transfer Station to be composted—hours are: Tuesday/Thursday, 12:00-4:00pm, Friday, 7:00am-5:00pm, or Saturday from 9:00am-4:00pm.

**[What to do if the power goes out in the winter](#)** any number of things can cause a power outage during the winter months. If it is caused by weather, the outage could be wide-spread or it could be localized. Follow the link above to make sure you are staying safe as possible as you wait for the power to come back on in during these instances. This site also offers information on *being prepared if the power goes out*, read more [here](#).

## Did you know...?

...that almost all of Costa Rica's electricity was produced by renewable energy in 2016? Around 17 percent of the US electricity supply was renewable. The Costa Rican Electricity Institute (ICE) said that around 98.1 percent of the country's electricity came from green sources; these include large hydropower facilities, fed by a myriad of rivers and heavy seasonal rains; geothermal plants; wind turbines; solar panels and biomass plants. To read more, follow [this link](#).

...that New York City now has a continuous nine mile bikeway from downtown Brooklyn into the Bronx? "Bikeway" apparently means protected bike lanes, not just the common one-white-stripe variety. The achievement has been somewhat slow in the making—presumably, the bikeway will continue to be expanded, and connected to other paths as well. For more information, [click here](#).

...China plans to spend 3.5 trillion yuan (approximately \$503 billion) by 2020 on high-speed rail network expansion? The achievement of the plans would see 80% of the major cities in China covered by the new high-speed rail network, growing by 30,000 kilometers—which is roughly 6.5 times the distance between New York and Los Angeles (when traveled by road). So, in other words, it is a substantial high-speed rail network. For more on this, follow [this link](#).

...according to Efficiency Maine's online calculator, one 60-watt incandescent light bulb burning for six hours a day costs \$19.71, a CFL of similar light output costs \$4.93 a year, and an LED of similar light output at only \$3.35? Haven't updated your home lighting yet? What are you waiting for?!

**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.