



Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 4, Issue 11 November 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.
- It’s that time of year again—fall is here with winter not far behind. How do you get your home ready for the colder months to come?

REAC is looking for one more member! 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—November 2016

Event	Date/Time/Location	Description
<p>REAC Movie Night—<i>Symphony of the Soil</i></p> 	<p>November 1 7:00pm Falmouth Memorial Library 5 Lunt Rd., Falmouth</p> 	<p>Join members of REAC as they co-sponsor <i>Symphony of the Soil</i> with the Falmouth Memorial Library on November 1st. The film examines our human relationship with soil, the use and misuse of soil in agriculture, deforestation and development, and the latest scientific research on soil’s key role in ameliorating the most challenging environmental issues of our time. Filmed on four continents, featuring esteemed scientists and working farmers and ranchers, <i>Symphony of the Soil</i> is an intriguing presentation that highlights possibilities of healthy soil creating healthy plants creating healthy humans living on a healthy planet.</p>
<p>Maine Environmental Sustainability Network Meeting</p>	<p>November 9 8:30-10:30am Maine Audubon 20 Gilsland Farm Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>MESN is Maine’s preeminent network for sustainability professionals, green businesses and community leaders. Their networking sessions are held each month in Falmouth and November’s topic is <i>Climate Change Preparedness</i>. Guest speaker is Julie Wormser, Vice President for Policy, Boston Harbor Now, and Coordinator for the Boston Harbor Climate Change Preparedness Plan. For more information and to register, click here.</p>

<p>Make it Tight: Building Enclosure Airtightness Training</p>	<p>November 9 1:00-5:00pm 58 Fore St., Portland</p>	<p>In this four hour comprehensive introduction to building air tightness and air sealing, attendees will gain detailed knowledge about: why an air barrier is critical to high-performance construction; what is an air barrier and what are the air barrier standards today; as well as how to design an air barrier. For more information and to register, follow this link.</p>
<p>PassivhausMAINE Fall Forum</p> 	<p>November 9-10 More details to follow</p>	<p>Passive house concepts were originally developed for larger residential and commercial buildings. Meet three developers who have defined their projects by aiming for passive house standards in affordable housing, market rate and mixed use buildings. Cross-laminated timber (CLT) has been getting lots of attention in Maine lately. Be introduced to one group's vision of grand scale CO2 sequestration and urban construction through the use of Maine produced CLT. Learn about the motivations, lessons learned and vision for the future. More information can be found by visiting this site.</p>
<p>Falmouth to Hold Town-Wide Volunteer Fair</p> 	<p>November 13 1:00-3:00pm Mason-Motz Activity Center 190 Middle Rd., Falmouth</p> <p>For more information contact Erin Cadigan at ecadigan@falmouthme.org or 207-232-8850</p>	<p>Make your mark at Falmouth's Town-wide Volunteer Fair, Sunday, November 13 from 1:00-3:00pm at the Mason-Motz Activity Center, 190 Middle Road in Falmouth. Representatives from area non-profit, service, and booster organizations will be available to showcase their organizations and highlight their volunteer needs for those interested in getting involved. The event is free and open to the public. All ages are welcome to attend, including students looking to fulfill service hours as part of their graduation requirements. The Fair provides attendees with a pressure-free opportunity to learn about the needs within their own community and to evaluate volunteer opportunities that best match their skills, interests, and commitment level.</p>
<p>Maine Audubon Speaker Series—The Nexus of Conservation and Agriculture</p> 	<p>November 16 7:00-9:00pm Maine Audubon 20 Gilsland Farm Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>Featuring Amanda Beal, the new executive director of Maine Farmland Trust, this event is part of Maine Audubon's Speaker Series. Maine Farmland Trust (MFT), like Maine Audubon, leverages education, stewardship, and advocacy in pursuit of their conservation mission. In her talk, Ms. Beal will discuss the ways MFT is working to assure a vibrant and sustainable future for agriculture in Maine, with a focus on the many environmental, social, and economic benefits of keeping working farmland in our communities. This presentation is hosted in partnership with Maine Farmland Trust.</p>

<p>E2Tech Expo 2016</p> 	<p>November 17 8:00am-7:00pm Abromson Center University of Southern Maine</p>	<p>The second annual E2Tech Expo will be held on November 17th. Experienced speakers and dynamic workshops will focus on the current energy "State of the State," including policy and planning, regional energy procurement, energy assurance and emergencies, transportation, emerging technologies, and more. The U.S. Department of Energy, Governor's Energy Office, electric utilities, energy and environmental companies, advocacy groups, and other top energy players are on tap to advise attendees on strategies for Maine's energy future. For more information, and to register, follow this link.</p>
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Energy and Sustainability News

Drought Prompts PUC to Consider Need for Statewide Water Supply Plan—the agency is surveying 153 utilities on the impact of below-normal rainfall and checking if conservation by the districts is adequate. For the full story, follow [this link](#).

Lincolntonville Unanimously Supports Solar Power Project—the unanimous vote clears the way for ReVision Energy to be granted a license to install a 43.4 kilowatt array on approximately one-quarter-acre on town land adjacent to the fire station, with a 30-year lease. Read more [here](#).

Portland Jetport Gets New De-Icing Fluid Recycling System—a new facility designed to recycle aircraft de-icing fluid at the Portland International Jetport is described as the first of its kind in the country. Read more [here](#).

South Portland Council Shows Support for Energy Benchmarks—the goal of energy benchmarking, which would comply in the City's Climate Action Plan, is to help reduce the city's carbon footprint. The benchmarking proposal would apply to all municipal buildings that are at least 5,000 square feet in size - approximately 30 structures - as well as commercial and residential buildings in the Mill Creek neighborhood that are at least 5,000 square feet or have 10 or more units. For the full article, follow [this link](#).

Maine Environmental Panel Weighs Application to Double Size of Alton Landfill—the process has been going on for more than four years, but Casella Waste Systems and the state have moved closer to getting a decision on their planned expansion of the Juniper Ridge Landfill near Old Town. Read more [here](#).

Cape Elizabeth Planning Board Clears the Way for Changes at the Recycling Center—votes on June 14 authorized \$1.4 million to be used to upgrade the Recycling Center. There will be five traffic lanes, one of which will be for bypassing vehicles. Four lanes will be for people who want to access one of five outdoor stationary compactors. Two of the compactors will be for recycling and three will be used for trash. For the full article, [follow this link](#).

Maine wind loses, Solar wins in Regional Clean Energy Bids—two major electricity transmission proposals lost out in bidding to deliver wind power to southern New England utilities, but a Yarmouth-based solar company will enter contract negotiations. Read more [here](#).

Crucial Battle Over Solar Panel Incentives Goes to Maine PUC—many Maine jobs are at stake as a proposal to reduce the credits for power fed to the grid from rooftops is debated at a hearing. For the full article, [click here](#).

In Other News...

Fall Leaf Bag Collection—the Town of Falmouth is having its annual leaf bag collection curbside on the following dates: Fridays—November 4, 11, and 18. *Be sure to place bags out at the curb by 7:00am.* Leaf bags are available in quantities of 15 bags per resident and can be obtained at Public Works (101 Woods Rd). Reminder: brush is not collected curbside; however brush *is* accepted at the Transfer Station. Be sure to do your part in the process of generating organic compost in Falmouth for all to benefit! More information can be found [here](#).

University of Maine Cooperative Extension Offers Landscape for Life Course—every home landscape has the potential to help clean air and water, reduce flooding, cool your town, and combat climate change. Yet conventional gardening practices too often work against nature, damaging the environment's ability to provide these natural benefits that support the health and well-being of you, your family, and your community. This course will be on five consecutive Tuesday evenings January 17 through February 14 from 5:30-7:30pm at the UMaine Regional Learning Center, 75 Clearwater Drive in Falmouth. For more information call 207-781-6099 or email extension.cumberland@maine.edu, and to register follow [this link](#).

Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

There are items that can be composted in your private curbside collection pickup that shouldn't be composted in your backyard. This list includes: meat, fish, eggs, dairy products, oily foods or grease, bones, cat and dog waste, and anything treated with pesticides. For more information on backyard composting, visit [this site](#).

Interested in buying an **Earth Machine** from Public Works to start composting in your back yard? Visit their site [here](#) to order your compost bin for only \$55.00 (retail value of \$100). Town Hall staff uses one of these right on site!

Did you know...?

...that when food scraps are thrown into a landfill, the degrading material creates methane, a greenhouse gas that is 70 times more potent than carbon dioxide?

...studies have shown that backyard composting can reduce the trash volumes of a household with a family of four by 15-25%?

...that composting also reduces the use of nitrous oxide, which is about 310 times more potent than carbon dioxide, as well as it replaces the need to use chemical fertilizers and pesticides, avoiding greenhouse gases related to their production?

...that recycling organics would boost the recycling rate nationally from about 25% to 50-70%?

....other benefits of composting can be used to, replenish soils, reduce soil erosion, and prevent polluted stormwater from contaminating our wetlands, lakes and streams, as well as capture carbon dioxide for climate protection?

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.