


Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 4, Issue 6 June 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—summer is here! How do you keep the waste 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 and get involved in our work to make Falmouth a sustainable place to live, work and play!

Calendar of Local Green Events- June 2016

Event	Date/Time/Location	Description
<p>The Future of Solar in Maine</p> 	<p>June 2 6:30-8:00pm Freeport High School 30 Holbrook St., Freeport</p>	<p>Come join Maine leaders in a conversation about solar policy and the state of solar energy in Maine. The panel discussion will be moderated by Alan Caron. Panelists include: Tim Schneider, Office of the Public Advocate; Vaughan Woodruff, Committee on Renewable Energy; Dylan Voorhees, Natural Resources Council of Maine; and Sarah Gideon, Maine State Legislature. Falmouth’s Energy and Sustainability Coordinator will be at this event, be sure to say hello!</p>
<p>The Right Mix: Envisioning Our Energy Future</p>	<p>June 8 2:00pm Lunt Auditorium, 74 Lunt Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>Tomorrow’s energy mix will be much different than today’s. To envision what that mix could be, OceanView is convening industry experts in utility regulation, solar, natural gas, propane and oil for a panel discussion. OceanView is an ideal host as their campus features a mix of energy systems that attendees will be able to see first hand.</p> <p>To RSVP for the event, please call 781-4460.</p>

<p>Sustainability in Maine's Tourism Industry: We'll Shut the Lights Off for You!</p> 	<p>June 8 4:00-7:30pm O'Maine Studios 54 Danforth St., Portland</p>	<p>Tourism revenue in Maine reached a record \$5.65 billion in 2015, a 3.2% increase over the previous year, with a total economic impact of more than \$8billion and 99,000 jobs. As climate change, environmental toxicity, and water pollution concerns intensify, Maine citizens and visitors alike will be increasingly seeking shelter, suds, and sustenance from hotels, breweries, and restaurants with sustainability programs, renewable resources, and local farm-to-table ingredients. These efforts are becoming more visible in tourism marketing materials and travel packages are being built around Maine's outdoor woods, water, and winter activities. This forum is intended to amplify Maine's sustainable tourism message and highlight Maine businesses' innovative approaches to sustainable management practices, from using solar and wind for hotel and inn heating and electricity, to serving sustainable fish in restaurants, to preserving lands and forests for wildlife engagement and enjoyment. Follow this link for more information.</p>
<p>Competitive Energy Services (CES) Spring Seminar at the University of Southern Maine</p> 	<p>June 10 University of Southern Maine—Portland Campus Additional information to come, visit CES's website for more details.</p>	<p>Competitive Energy Services invites you to save the date for their second spring seminar, which will be held at the University of Southern Maine's Portland campus. Come hear their staff experts cover topics such as: energy market updates, where have we been, and where are we now; energy and capacity pricing, what you need to know today about tomorrow's energy markets; solar PV, strategies and incentives; along with helping to understand your utility bill. Special guest presentation will also be held at this forum.</p>
<p>Amtrak Exhibit Train</p> 	<p>June 11 1:30-5:30pm 16 Station Ave., Brunswick</p>	<p>Tour the Amtrak Exhibit Train which tells the remarkable story of U.S. intercity passenger rail through the display of artifacts and memorabilia. This event will feature train tours, samples of Maine Made products from the Amtrak Downeaster Café, educational exhibits, activities for kids, ticket giveaways, and more.</p>

<p>Maine Women's Ride</p> 	<p>June 12 All day L.L. Bean Flagship Store's Discovery Park, 95 Main St., Freeport</p> <p>For more event information, click here.</p>	<p>The Bicycle Coalition of Maine's Women's Ride is a celebration of women and bicycling. The event offers a friendly, supportive atmosphere geared toward girls and women of all ages and abilities. The routes (10, 25, 50 or 62 mile options) follow quiet roads, offering beautiful views of the Maine coast and countryside. There are rest stops, healthy snacks and support vehicles along the way. Upon your return, you'll be welcomed with music, yoga, massage, and a party! They'll have free munchies and LOTS of door prizes.</p>
<p>Maine Environment Sustainability Network Networking and Forum</p>	<p>July 15 8:30-10:30am Maine Audubon 20 Gilsland Farm Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>Inaugural meeting of the newly restarted Maine Environmental Sustainability Network (MESN) for sustainability professionals, businesses, community leaders and engaged citizens. Networking and panel discussion from 8:30 am - 10:30 am, followed by strategy session until noon. Click here for location, RSVP and details.</p>
<p>Maine Startup and Create Week</p> 	<p>June 20-26 Portland Maine</p>	<p>Maine Startup and Create Week celebrates entrepreneurship, cultivation and creativity while driving high impact innovation. One of the core sessions covers designing systems to prevent wasting resources. It's said we need to produce 70% more food by 2050, yet currently 40% of the food we produce is wasted and lost. Wasted due to things like spoilage, lack of cold storage, visual presentation and numerous other reasons. It's more efficient to fix an inefficient system than to try and create more products. Inefficiencies in supply chains, production systems and consumer markets affect every industry – come listen to entrepreneurs creating solutions to combat these problems in an industry that our lives depend on. See more here.</p>

<p>Mission Innovation— Energy R&D in Maine</p> 	<p>June 23 Location and time TBD</p>	<p>Mission Innovation is a global partnership, launched during the 2015 Paris Climate Change Conference, intended to expedite the development of clean energy technologies to make them more affordable, while creating commercial opportunities. These advancements will promote economic growth and increase the reliability and security of power supplies worldwide. Participating countries seek to increase their governmental clean energy research and development investments by 200 percent over the next five years, with a focus on transformational, scalable innovations—next-generation technologies that rethink how society produces and consumes power resources. This forum discusses the importance of these investments in technology research and development in Maine to support low-carbon technologies and increase energy efficiency, renewable power generation, and advanced transportation systems. Speakers and location to be announced soon, so stayed tuned!</p>
<p>Bringing Nature Home</p> 	<p>June 29 7:00-9:00pm Maine Audubon 20 Gilsland Farm Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>Hear biologist Doug Tallamy, author of bestselling book “Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants,” talk about his work. Dr. Tallamy will discuss the important ecological roles of the plants in our landscapes, emphasize the ecological, educational, physical, and emotional benefits of designing landscapes with these roles in mind, and explore the consequences of failing to do so. Managing landscapes in this crowded world carries both moral and ecological responsibilities that we can no longer ignore.</p>

Energy News

Proposed Renewable Fuel Standards for 2017 and Biomass-Based Diesel Volume for 2018—the EPA proposed increases in renewable fuel volume requirements across all types of biofuels under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program. These increases would boost production and provide for ambitious yet achievable growth. To read more, and to see the renewable fuel volumes requirements for 2014-2018, [click here](#).

Whitefield Holds Off on Solar Project—Erik Ekholm, a major proponent of Whitefield going solar who was partly responsible for bringing the issue before the town for a vote, presented bids from four solar energy companies for a power purchase agreement at the Whitefield Board of Selectmen's Tuesday, May 24 meeting. He then recommended Whitefield hold off on moving forward with any proposal until the uncertainty surrounding net metering is resolved. Selectmen agreed. Read more [here](#).

Maine Municipalities Pull Back on Solar Projects after Veto Kills Bill—several Maine communities are reconsidering or shelving plans to build large-scale solar energy projects in the aftermath of a failed bid to reform Maine’s solar regulations. A handful of cities and towns, including Falmouth, Portland, South Portland and Rockland, were planning to install photovoltaic panels on top of landfills that otherwise had no use. The installations could provide renewable power to municipal buildings, schools and streetlights and reduce municipal electricity costs. To read the full article, follow [this link](#).

Renewable Energy News: New Massachusetts Rules Play Role in Decline of Maine Lumber—Governor Paul LePage is asking Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker to reconsider a rule change that went into effect on Jan. 1 that kicked two biomass electricity plants in Washington County out of a program that awards higher payments for renewable energy. By summer, as many as a 1,000 of the state's 5,000 loggers could be out of work because of the decline in demand for wood, according to a Maine logging contractor trade association. Read the full story [here](#).

Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

Top Green Laundry Tips, [click here for more detail](#) :

- ✚ Wear it more than once
- ✚ Use green laundry detergent
- ✚ Choose concentrated detergent
- ✚ Make your own detergent
- ✚ Wash by hand
- ✚ Maximize your washer for energy efficiency
- ✚ Hang it out to dry
- ✚ Maximize your dryer
- ✚ Don't iron if you don't have to
- ✚ Head to the laundromat with big items
- ✚ Wash on COLD cycle as often as possible
- ✚ Wash at night when eclectic rates are cheaper

Did you know...?

...that 90% of the total energy used by a typical washing machine goes to heat the water? Only 10% is used to power the motor!

...that 34 million tons of CO₂ would be saved if every U.S. household used only cold water for washing clothes? That's nearly 8% of the Kyoto target for the United States!

...that 700 pounds of CO₂ is saved each year by line-drying your family's laundry? You'd save around \$75, too.

...that the energy efficiency of washing machines has increased by 88% between 1981-2003?

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.