

Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)

“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 4, Issue 1 January 2016 – Falmouth, Maine


- It's hard to believe winter is here, despite the warmer weather we've seen lately. What are your plans to button up your home as the snow starts flying?
- 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.
- How do you keep the waste down while hosting a get-together or party? We'd love to hear your tips!




REAC UPDATE—


The Falmouth Town Council is scheduled to vote on the proposed Ordinance regulating the distribution of single-use shopping bags on **January 11th**. If approved, the Ordinance would require the six largest retailers in town to charge customers 5 cents for each paper or plastic bag they receive. The effective date being proposed is April 1st, 2016.

Third Annual Home Energy Fair—Saturday, January 23rd

See event details below

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date/Time/Location</i>	<i>Description</i>
Maine Aquaculture Research, Development & Education Summit	January 7 8:00am-4:00pm Hutchinson Center, Rm 138ABC 80 Belmont Ave., Belfast	This is a unique opportunity for anyone and everyone involved in aquaculture in Maine to meet, exchange ideas, and explore innovative, cutting edge solutions for Maine's aquaculture industry needs. Even if you have not been involved in aquaculture research before, now is the time to join the movement to build Maine's future. For more event information, follow this link .
Efficiency Maine's 2016 Annual Energy Symposium 	January 8 1:00-6:00pm Governor Hill Mansion 136 State St., Augusta	Join the Efficiency Maine Trust as they recognize Maine's top performers in energy efficiency, and discuss the role of efficiency in meeting climate change goals at their 2016 Annual Energy Symposium. For event agenda, and more information, click here .

<p>World Affairs Member Coffee and Discussion Group—Climate Change</p> 	<p>January 12 10:00-11:15am Bam Bam Bakery 267 Commercial St., Portland</p>	<p>Members, please join World Affairs Council of Maine at this coffee group gathering. This is an informal monthly get-together just for members to talk in a small group about a global topic of current interest. Sign-up is required and space is limited. Not a member?</p> <p>Contact Amy Holland at aholland@wacmaine.org or call her at (207)780-4337 for more information.</p>
<p>2016 Maine Agricultural Trades Show</p>	<p>January 12—9:00am-5:00pm January 13—9:00am-7:00pm January 14—9:00am-3:00pm</p> <p>Augusta Civic Center 76 Community Dr., Augusta</p>	<p>The Annual Maine Agricultural Trades show will be held at the Augusta Civic Center from January 12-14, and admission is free! The show is put on by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and this year they are celebrating 75 years. To view the event's schedule and programming, please visit this website.</p>
<p>Film Screening—<i>The Messenger</i></p> 	<p>January 12 7:00-9:00pm SPACE Gallery 538 Congress St., Portland Members/Non-members: \$6</p>	<p>Join Maine Audubon staff for a screening of <i>The Messenger</i>. Director Stu Rynard's wide-ranging and contemplative documentary explores our deep connection to birds and warns us that the uncertain fate of songbirds might mirror our own. Moving from the northern reaches of the Boreal Forest to the Base of Mount Ararat in Turkey to the streets of New York, this film brings us face-to-face with a remarkable variety of human-made perils that have devastated thrushes, warblers, orioles, tanagers and many more airborne music-makers. For more information, contact Doug Hitchcox at (207)781-2330.</p>
<p>Falmouth Home Energy Fair!</p>	<p>January 23 10:00am-3:00pm Falmouth Elementary School 58 Woodville Rd., Falmouth</p> 	<p>Join Falmouth's Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee, along with over twenty exhibitors at the third annual Home Energy Fair! Vendors include those in the fields of home energy, energy efficiency, alternative fuels and so much more. Admission is free, children's activities are provided, and there will be door prizes and local food! See you there! For more information, contact Kimberly at kdarling@falmouthme.org or by calling her at (207)699-5337.</p>

Speaker Series— Why Kids Need Nature	January 28 6:30pm 20 Gilsland Farm Rd., Falmouth	According to recent surveys, many children get outside less than thirty minutes a day. This is having a huge impact on children's physical, mental and social well being. Join folks for an engaging discussion with Angela Hanscom to learn about the importance of getting kids into nature and how you can incorporate outside play into your daily routine. Sip on complimentary beer and wine from local brewery, Allagash Brewing Company. Doors open at 6:30!
Pecha Kucha Night, Rockport  Natural Resources Council of Maine	January 29 6:30pm Rockport Opera House 6 Central St., Rockport	Not familiar with the fun of Pecha Kucha happenings? Pecha Kucha is a fast-paced, friendly social hour where people of all ages meet, show their work and share stories. Ten presenters will display twenty slides for twenty seconds, each focused on their passions. At this event, NRCM Director Lisa Pohlmann will share breathtaking photos of the lands east of Baxter State Park that have been proposed for a new National Park and National Recreation Area. For more information, follow this link .

Energy News

University of Maine Farmington's New Biomass Based Central Heating Plant is Under Construction—in addition to providing heat to the campus, the new biomass plant will also be a valuable learning facility. It will actively engage students in understanding biomass energy, associated systems and processes and will be embedded in several courses as a mandatory learning facet of several curricula and fields of study. The 5,885 square foot biomass heating plant will be completed this month, and while in operation is expected to replace 390,000 gallons of heating oil while reducing the university's carbon emissions by 3,000 tons a year. To view photos of project work and to learn more, click [here](#).

Down East Wood Chip Export Plan Garners Support—a proposal to export low-grade woodchips to Europe received support from representatives of logging companies, pulp mills and sawdust mills at a meeting in Eastport last month. Phyto-Charter Inc. has developed a patented system for treating wood to rid it of pathogens and pests so it can be exported and meet the standards of the European Union. The United States has not exported wood to Europe since 2000, when the current regulations were enacted. To read the full article, follow [this link](#).

MRRA, Village Green Ventures Sign Grounded Lease for Renewable Energy Power Plant Construction—the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority (MRRA) is pleased to report that they have executed the ground lease along with the power purchase agreement with the Village Green Ventures for the anaerobic digester project. When the power plant is up and running, it will produce nearly a megawatt of electricity and would meet a good portion of Brunswick Landing's current power needs, thereby greatly reducing or eliminating electricity delivered over CMP's distribution grid to the campus. To read more, follow [this link](#).

USM Professors—Release Energy Books

- Muskie School of Public Service and Geography Professor Firooza Pavri, and co-authors James Aber and Susan Aber just completed their second book, “**Windscares: A Global Perspective on Wind Power**.” The term windscares is used to refer to a variety of elements that feed in to the harnessing of wind power.
- Environmental Science and Policy Professor Daniel Martinez and co-author Ben Ebenhack just completed their second book on energy, “**Valuing Energy for Global Needs**”. Martinez said, “The ultimate aim of this text is to provide readers with a foundation to evaluate the twenty-first century energy options as clearly and objectively as possible”.

Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

Here a few ways to bring in the New Year sustainably! If you already do these, get a friend to join in, too!

- ✓ Ditch the bottled water! Bottled water is a huge waste of resources, so, carry around a reusable drinking glass, mug or bottle instead. I use a mason jar myself!
- ✓ Ditch the single-use shopping bags! The best single-use bag is one you *don't* use. Not in the habit of bringing your own reusables? Don't have access to some? Stop by the Town Office, Kimberly will be happy to provide you with a few.
- ✓ Start composting organics! While traditional zero-sort recycling is probably second nature by now, composting can be a more difficult adjustment. Don't want to compost at home? Drop off your organics at the Transfer Station.
- ✓ Try to carpool or commute another way once a week, or even once a month! Not only will you be able to socialize with a friend, or get some exercise, you'll save some money while reducing your environmental impact.

Did you know...?

....In 2014, Maine's pulp and paper producers processed 8.1 million green tons of pulpwood? (Down 0.6 million tons from 2013); 79% was harvested here; 21% percent was imported.

...the first windmill for energy production was built in 1887? For more than 2,000 years we have used wind energy. Wind energy represents about 4% of our energy consumption. A modern wind turbine can power over 1,000 homes.

...that although the sun is 90 million miles away from Earth, it takes less than 10 minutes for light to travel that distance? Solar technology can be distinguished into active and passive. Photovoltaic panels and solar thermal collectors harvest solar energy and are examples of active solar; whereas passive technology includes constructing rooms to improve air circulation, and orienting space to favorable use sunlight.

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.