




## Falmouth Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee (REAC)



“Energy News You Can Use” Volume 7, Issue 4, April 2019 – Falmouth, Maine

- Spring is in the air! How do you gear up for the change in seasons while being sustainable?
- Any ideas how Falmouth can be more sustainable? Use less energy? Generate less waste? We’d love to hear your ideas! Contact your Energy and Sustainability Coordinator, Kimberly Darling at [kdarling@falmouthme.org](mailto:kdarling@falmouthme.org) with your thoughts and suggestions.
- Know of any energy or sustainability events not listed in the calendar below? Please reach out to Kimberly and she’ll add them in!

## Calendar of Local Green Events- April 2019

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date/Time/Location</i>	<i>Description</i>
<p><b>NRCM’s Citizen Action Day</b></p>  <p>Natural Resources Council of Maine</p>	<p>April 2 8:00am-1:00pm NRCM’s office and the Maine State House 3 Wade St., Augusta</p>	<p>This annual event is a great opportunity for people to meet with their legislators at the State House in Augusta and urge them to protect Maine’s environment. NRCM staff will provide information on upcoming priority bills, and tips to communicate effectively with legislators. Although online registration is closed, you can still attend the event! Please contact Todd Martin at (207) 430-0115 with your information if you’re interested!</p>
<p><b>Maine Audubon Bird Walk</b></p>  <p>ALLAGASH BREWING COMPANY</p>	<p>April 7 9:30-11:30am Allagash Brewery 50 Industrial Way, Portland</p>	<p>Allagash Brewing Company is teaming up with Maine Audubon for a bird walk at their brewery. The idea is this: meet at the brewery, go for some birding on a nearby Portland Trail system, and come back and talk about what was seen, and what the initiatives the Audubon center is undertaking for southern Maine’s birds. <a href="#">Event information here</a>. No registration required, but a donation to Maine Audubon is recommended.</p>
<p><b>Ocean Acidification, Climate Change, and You: A Casco Bay Matters Event</b></p>  <p>Friends of Casco Bay Casco BAYKEEPER</p>	<p>April 9 5:30-6:30pm Curtis Memorial Library 23 Pleasant St., Brunswick</p>	<p>Friends of Casco Bay’s staff scientist Mike Doan will talk about the warning signs they are seeing in their monitoring data. Casco Baykeeper Ivy Frignoca will share some of the impacts to marine species and how Mainers are working together to respond to these threats. There will be a time for questions after the presentation. <a href="#">Check out the Event Facebook page for more information</a>.</p>

<p><b>FREE Healthy Lawn Care Workshop</b></p> 	<p>April 10 6:00-8:00pm Lunt Auditorium 74 Lunt Rd., Falmouth</p>	<p>Wait! Before you start your routine spring chores, do you know what your lawn <i>really</i> needs? Join Falmouth's Conservation Commission and the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District to learn how to grow a beautiful lawn that is safe for kids, pets, and the environment while saving money, time, and effort! YardScaping is the District's healthy lawn care program that teaches homeowners how to grow a healthy lawn without pesticides and with proper fertilization. Whether you do-it-yourself or hire a professional, this class is for you! This event is free, but we ask that you register. Please contact Ali Clift <a href="mailto:aclift@cumberlandswcd.org">aclift@cumberlandswcd.org</a> to register and for more information.</p>
<p><b>Portland Trails 15 x 15 Annual Meeting</b></p> 	<p>April 11 5:30-8:00pm Oxbow Brewing 49 Washington Ave, Portland</p>	<p>Portland Trails' annual meeting is a night of the best ideas in trails, transportation, conservation, and placemaking from members of the community. The 15x15 presentation style inspires presenters to be deep, brief, and snappy; and it inspires audiences to walk away educated and entertained. Presenters get 15 slides, and 15 seconds per slide, to share the story of their idea or innovation. In years past, they've heard from lawyers, middle schoolers, bridge builders, botanists and more. Join them for an evening of great ideas, snacks, drinks and community!</p>
<p><b>Urban Runoff &amp; Green Neighbor Family Fest</b></p> 	<p>April 20 <i>Race begins at 9:00am</i> 9:30am-12:30pm Deering High School 370 Stevens Ave., Portland</p>	<p>The Urban Runoff leads into the Green Neighbor Family Fest, where families and community members take part in hands-on activities about water, learn steps to becoming a green neighbor, and have an all-around good time! The festival is the City of Portland's annual kick off for their Greener Neighborhoods Cleaner Streams program, which encourages residents to help keep Capisic Brook clean. <a href="#">Follow this link for race info.</a></p>
<p><b>Green ME Up Earth Day Festival</b></p> 	<p>April 20 10:00am-3:00pm L.L. Bean Discovery Park 35 Main St., Freeport</p>	<p>Be inspired to take action at <i>Green ME Up!</i> Celebrate Earth Day with a free, hands-on, fun-filled day learning how you can help keep Maine green today and in the future. There will be interactive and earth-friendly activities with organizations including Project Learning Tree, L.L. Bean Discovery School, Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Maine Geological Survey, ecomaine, Maine Audubon and Sappi. Climb a rock wall, take aim with archery, and so much more! There will also be live entertainment, free admission and parking. This will be an awesome day for people of all ages. <a href="#">More information at this link.</a></p>

<p><b>Earth Day Planting Day at MOFGA</b></p> 	<p>April 20 9:00am-3:00pm MOFGA's Common Ground Education Center Crosby Brook Rd., Unity</p>	<p>An Earth Day Planting Day with volunteers at MOFGA's Common Ground Education Center in Unity, Maine, on Saturday, April 20. Joining the spring clean-up at our Common Ground Education Center and by plant new apple trees in the Maine Heritage Orchard. They'll get ready for the growing season and learn about the importance of mulching! Our planting day is a great way to enjoy some fresh air and the company of other MOFGA supporters. All ages and experience levels are welcome. They'll provide lunch and a selection of T-shirts for volunteers. For more information and to RSVP, email <a href="mailto:volunteers@mofga.org">volunteers@mofga.org</a> or call (207) 568-4142.</p>
<p><b>Energy Transformation and the Changing Role of Electric Utilities</b></p> 	<p>April 24 7:30-10:00am Hilton Garden Inn, Eagle Rom 5 Park St., Freeport</p>	<p>Consumers, technology, and climate change are driving transformation in the energy industry. States are seeking to reduce carbon emissions from power generation; support increased electrification of the building and transportation sectors; and provide for more customer energy options. In this changing environment, policymakers and regulators across the U.S. are considering how the role of electric utilities will evolve. Come learn what changes will need to be made to support carbon emission reductions, increased electrification, and regulation changes to support policy adjustments. For more event information, <a href="#">click here</a>.</p>

## Energy News

**Aroostook County Town Still Sees Potential for Biomass After Plant Announces Shutdown**—despite ReEnergy's plans to close Aroostook County's last biomass plant this April, economic development leaders in the Ashland are hopeful that a biomass plant could be part of the region's future. [Follow this link for the full story.](#)

**Coalition to Study Greater Portland Transit, with Eye to the Future**—train, bus and ferry agencies of southern Maine want to develop a plan that will serve the area for the next 30 years. Use of public transit in southern Maine has been growing in recent years and jumped from nearly 3.8 million riders in 2013 to almost 4.3 million in 2017, an increase of more than 13 percent, according to the Greater Portland Council of Governments. That growth ran counter to national trends, which showed gradually decreasing use of public transit during the period. [Read more here.](#)

**Opposition Turns to Legislature as CMP's \$950M Transmission Project Enters a Week of Hearings**—Central Maine Power's controversial \$950 million New England Clean Energy Connect project begins joint public hearings this week before the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and Maine Land Use Planning Commission. Meanwhile, at least two bills have been submitted in the Legislature that would, if approved and enacted into law, delay the project and possibly even kill it. [The full story can be found at this link.](#)

## In Other News...

**Is Polystyrene Ban Proposal Good for Business?**—the Greater York Region of Commerce told the organizers behind a proposed ordinance to ban polystyrene (commonly referred to by the trademark name Styrofoam) that business owners in town have mixed feelings about the initiative. Currently, 16 Maine Municipalities have adopted similar ordinances. [For the full story, click here.](#)

**Portland Bans Synthetic Pesticides for Lawn and Garden Care**—the law in Portland technically took effect at the start of the year, but the slow dawning of spring weather means it's becoming relevant now. Only organic treatments can be used to beat back weeds and insects such as grubs. [Read more by following this link.](#)

**Craft Brewers Launch "Maine Brewshed Alliance" to Help Protect Clean Water**—Representatives from 13 of the state's top craft breweries joined together last week to launch of coalition of Maine brewers committed to helping to protect clean water in the state's rivers, lakes, streams and ocean. Alliance members pledged to educate their customers and the public about the critical role clean water plays in the production of great beer, and to support policies and programs that protect the waters of Maine that are vital for the state's economy, recreation, and quality of life. To read more on this story, [follow this link.](#)

## Green Consumer Tips & How-To's

A well-designed landscape not only can add beauty to your home but believe it or not, can also reduce your heating and cooling costs! A well-placed tree, shrub, or vine can deliver the effective shade, act as a windbreak and reduce your energy bills.

The Department of Energy recommends the following tips to save energy with landscaping in our cold climate:

- ❖ Use dense windbreaks to protect the home from cold winter winds.
- ❖ Allow the winter sun to reach south-facing windows.
- ❖ Shade south and west windows and walls from the direct summer sun, if summer overheating is a problem.

It is also recommended to consider the climate immediately surrounding your home as well as the regional climate, referred to as the microclimate. For more information, visit the Department of Energy's page:

[Energy Saver 101: Everything You Need to Know About Landscaping](#)

## Did you know...

...Falmouth will be partnering with Cumberland and Yarmouth to host another **WindowDressers Community Build** in November? Feeling some drafts from your windows? We can help! Visit [www.windowdressers.org](http://www.windowdressers.org)

...that landscaping doesn't only add beauty to your home, but it can also improve your home's comfort and lower your energy bills? According to the U.S. Department of Energy, a well-designed landscape saves enough energy to pay for itself in less than 8 years!

...that Falmouth is working on ordinances to ban polystyrene and plastic bags? We'd love to hear your feedback on these proposals!

...that Falmouth will officially become a Tree City USA this year? Keep your eye out for some notices regarding the proclamation event! As part of that celebration, we're also having a **BIG TREE CONTEST!** Know of any really big trees? We'd like to know the species if known, location and photos and an estimate on the diameter. Pass the information to Kimberly, [kdarling@falmouthme.org](mailto:kdarling@falmouthme.org) by April 5!



**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.