September 28, 2016

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Upcoming Committee Meetings

As always, all are welcome to attend any committee meeting. Visit the committee pages, through the links below, for more information on each committee and notes from past meetings.

**Alternative Energy Committee** - Thursday, October 13, 6:00 p.m. at 7 Pine Street, Bar Harbor.

**Building Efficiency Committee** - Tuesday, October 25, 5:30 p.m. at 245 Oak Hill Road, Bar Harbor.

**Food Systems Committee** - Wednesday, October 12, 5:30 p.m. at 7 Pine Street, Bar Harbor.

**Public Policy Committee** - Tuesday, October 4, 5:00 p.m. at 1364 Tremont Road, Seal Cove.

**Transportation Committee** - Thursday, October 13, 5:30 p.m. at 12 Shannon Road, Bar Harbor.

**Zero Waste Committee** - Saturday, October 15, 8:00 a.m. at Deering Commons, College of the Atlantic.
Important! Maine PUC Proposal to Phase Out Net Energy Billing

On September 14th, the Maine Public Utilities Commission (PUC) proposed phasing-out net energy billing, also known as net metering. Net metering is Maine’s only program to encourage citizens and companies to invest in solar power.

The state’s net metering program determines how solar power will be compensated. There are multiple opinions on the value of solar power to the grid, but eliminating the program is the wrong way to resolve them. Maine took an excellent first step with the PUC’s 2015 “Value of Solar” Study. Now, in an “about face,” the Commission proposes to turn its back on this comprehensive study – wasting the costs citizens paid to conduct it. Solar power is already providing jobs in Maine; the PUC’s proposal would bring a halt to this economic development in favor of power supplies that will be more expensive in the long run and continue to pollute the air Mainers breathe and to threaten our climate. The Portland Press Herald offers a good description of the situation in this article.

The proposed rule change is listed as Case Number 2016-00222 at the PUC. Individuals who would like to voice their opinion on it can do so by contacting the Maine PUC and citing this case number at here or here. Maine’s Office of the Public Advocate may be of help. That office’s generic email is opa@maine.gov and its phone number is 207-624-3687.

Town of Bar Harbor sets significant goal, begins measuring energy use

The town of Bar Harbor has set a goal of net-zero energy impact for all future building construction and renovation projects on town buildings. The town has also committed to use Energy Star’s Portfolio Manager to track energy use in all existing municipal buildings. The information gathered will serve as an invaluable resource when deciding how to save energy and costs. Read more about the decision and ACTT’s role here.

MDI Green Building Tour

Join Four Winds and Island Housing Trust for the Annual MDI Green Building Tour Saturday, October 1, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Straw bale house at 126 Oak Hill Road in Somesville.
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Rammed earth house at 43 Bayview Drive in Salisbury Cove, Bar Harbor
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Camp Boss at Grace Point Lane in Pretty Marsh
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Hurst House at 210 Otter Cliff Road in Bar Harbor

For more information visit www.islandhousingtrust.org.

Read recent Bangor Daily News Op-Ed by ACTT Chair, Gary Friedmann - "It's not too late for Maine to lead the clean energy revolution"

www.aclimatetotherive.org