



WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Week ending January 2, 2009

State law assigns four core duties to the State Planning Office that include: 1) conducting continuing economic analysis, including economic forecasting, 2) coordinating the development of the State's economy and energy resources with the conservation of its natural resources; 3) providing technical assistance to towns and regions; and 4) providing technical assistance to the Governor and Legislature by undertaking special studies and plans and preparing policy alternatives.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY

Heating Fuel Prices Drop Again. The Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security (OEIS) conducted the weekly oil survey and has found that the current statewide average cash price for No. 2 heating oil to be at **\$2.27 per gallon** falling \$.09 since last week. It is important to note that the price for heating oil is a statewide average and that prices in a given geographic region of the state may be considerably higher or lower than the statewide average. Within the OEIS sample, the lowest actual heating oil price of \$1.84 per gallon was found in the Western and Southwestern regions. The high-end price of \$2.50 per gallon was found in the Eastern region. At the time of this release the price of WTI crude oil, major driver of refined product prices, including heating oil was \$38.42 up almost 15% from last week. The statewide kerosene price average is \$2.76 per gallon at this time. Today's propane price survey found statewide average to be \$2.79 per gallon which is \$0.01 higher than last week. The average price for propane represents the price per gallon for a 600-800 gallon domestic heating application. The next scheduled survey will be on Monday January 5, 2009. **CONTACT: Ian Burnes at 287-8927 or ian.burnes@maine.gov .**

THE MAINE COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

Anne Schink, Project INVEST Coordinator, to retire after 13 years with the Maine Commission for Community Service. She first joined the Commission staff in September 1995. In 1996, took a program position but returned to the Commission as Training/Technical Assistance Officer in December 1997. From January 2004 until March 2008, she served as the AmeriCorps Program Officer in addition to Training Officer and Disability Coordinator. Now as the Project INVEST Coordinator (Increased Nonprofit Volunteer Education & Skill Training) she works to address the need for accessible volunteer management training in a variety of formats across Maine. Project INVEST is one of four grants awarded in 2007 to the Maine Commission for Community Service by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Anne Schink is a wealth of knowledge and a true asset to our team. She will be truly missed. Her last day will be January 23. **CONTACT: Rochelle Runge at 207.287.8933 or rochelle.runge@maine.gov .**

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

“Happy New Year!” The Maine Recycles 2009 calendar was mailed out in record time with the last leaving in the mail on December 31, 2008. Posters from the 2008 Maine Recycles Week contest adorn the new calendars. Requests for the calendars started as soon as the MRW posters were sent in September. The calendar continues to be one of the best messengers for recycling in the State. The calendar promotion was adopted to keep recycling in the forefront year around and after 10 years many citizens have made the calendar their choice decoration for office, home, or classroom. Requests made to the web site, www.mainerecycles.com, confirm where the recycling participation is growing or entrenched. By Earth Day 2009, communities will be looking to Maine Recycles Week 2009, if they aren't working on the November 8 to 15 activities already. We thank our sponsors for making Maine Recycles Week promotion and recycling possible. For more information **CONTACT: Bruce White at 287-8053 or bruce.white@maine.gov / www.recyclemaine.com.**

The December issue of Waste Bytes was released this week. The newsletter is produced by the Waste Management and Recycling program. Topics in this issue include holiday recycling, cell phone recycling, and information on the 2009 Maine Recycles calendar. For more information or to read the newsletter in its entirety please visit http://www.maine.gov/spo/recycle/docs/recyclethis_newsletter.htm .

CONTACT: Bruce White at 287-8053 or bruce.white@maine.gov / www.recyclemaine.com.