



## **WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS**

*Week ending July 24, 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.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

#### **Ocean Energy Task Force**

July 30, 2009 – 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM at State House Room #228 (Appropriations & Financial Affairs Committee Room), Augusta. **CONTACT: Lorraine Lessard at 287-1486 or [lorraine.lessard@maine.gov](mailto:lorraine.lessard@maine.gov)**

#### **Maine Regulatory Fairness Board**

July 31, 2009 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM at Maine State Planning Office, 184 State Street, Augusta. **CONTACT: Donna Bradstreet at 287-5649 or [donna.bradstreet@maine.gov](mailto:donna.bradstreet@maine.gov)**

### **COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

**'Maine Recycles' Campaign Steering Committee reviews progress.** Members of the Maine Recycles Campaign steering committee met on Tuesday to review the Office's outreach and educational activities promoting recycling throughout Maine, as well as activities planned for the coming year. The campaign has produced: 1) a website, [www.mainerecycles.com](http://www.mainerecycles.com), which contains a variety and depth of resources that can be used by municipalities, individuals, organizations, and businesses for recycling education and promotion; and 2) a PSA video competition to encourage Mainers to recycle, and 3) the distribution of 100,000 beverage coasters featuring the campaign's recycling themes. The Steering Committee was pleased with the campaign's success and supported continuing these efforts. **CONTACT: Jetta Antonakos at (207) 287-9074 or [jetta.antonakos@maine.gov](mailto:jetta.antonakos@maine.gov).**

## LAND FOR MAINE'S FUTURE PROGRAM

Land for Maine's Future Board approves Amherst Mountains – the heart of the Penobscot–Hancock Highlands.



As you travel east from Bangor and Brewer on Route #9 and enter the town of Amherst, the highlands are an unmistakable feature on the landscape. With support from the Land for Maine's Future Program, the Maine Department of Conservation worked in partnership with the Forest Society of Maine and the town of Amherst to acquire over 4,980 acres of land that mark the transition between the coastal plain and the northern forest. This property includes dramatic ridges and surrounds remote, pristine ponds and a series of cascading streams. This project is a



unique partnership that enables the town of Amherst to manage a significant portion of this property for both recreation and as a sustainable working forest, while protecting the environmentally sensitive areas as an ecological reserve.

The Land for Maine's Future Program was established to help secure the future economic and social well-being of the citizens of Maine by maintaining the quality and

availability of productive lands and natural areas including recreation, working farms and forests, hunting, fishing, conservation, wildlife habitat, vital ecological functions, and scenic beauty. Since 1987 over 230 projects have been completed, with over 350 individual transactions completed state wide. This work has protected some 498,000 acres with roughly 60% being by easement and 40 % being in fee interest. **CONTACT:** Steve Brooke at 287-6736 or [Steve Brooke](#) or Tim Glidden at 287-1487 or [Tim Glidden](#)

### **MAINE COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**Registration opens for the 2009 Blaine House Conference on Volunteerism.** For the past 22 years, the Blaine House Conference on Volunteerism has provided learning and networking opportunities for Maine's volunteer administrators and program managers. This year's conference will be held at the University of Maine's Orono campus on October 13. The theme is "Volunteers Today: Compassion. Action. Change." Visit [www.VolunteerMaine.org](http://www.VolunteerMaine.org) to register for more than 20 different workshops tailored exclusively to the needs and challenges of leaders in the state's volunteer sector. Registration will up fast with many great local presenters and this years exciting Keynote Speaker, Martin J. Cowling, of People First Total Solutions. Workshop topics include information on the volunteer basics, sessions for experienced managers of volunteers, social media, engaging young people in community change, and the Kennedy Serve America Act. **CONTACT:** Rochelle Runge at [rochelle.runge@maine.gov](mailto:rochelle.runge@maine.gov) or 287-8933.

### **GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY**

**Heating Oil Price Averages Drop Slightly.** The Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security's July 20, 2009, fuel survey found the current statewide average cash price for No. 2 heating oil to be \$2.24 per gallon, two cents lower than last week. The statewide kerosene price average is \$2.69 per gallon at this time. The most recent average price of natural gas delivered to Maine consumers compiled by the Office was \$11.30 for a thousand cubic feet of gas, or equivalent to heating oil at \$1.53 a gallon. The most recent average statewide price of gasoline and diesel in Maine as posted by AAA's Daily Fuel Gauge Report was \$2.55 per gallon for gasoline, and \$2.60 for diesel fuel. **CONTACT:** Ian Burnes at 287-8927 or [ian.burnes@maine.gov](mailto:ian.burnes@maine.gov)