



WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Week August 28, 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.

Donna Bradstreet retires. One of SPO's longest-serving administrative secretaries retires this week. Donna started her work with the State in 1985 in the Department of Agriculture, Marketing Division. In 1990, she moved to the Maine Waste Management Agency (the agency that put Maine on the map as a leader in recycling). After the Legislature disbanded the agency, she was transferred to the State Planning Office, where, since 1995, she has provided support to the economics team, energy office, land use team, and Maine Commission for Community Service. Donna is an avid gardener. She is a Master Gardener and a hobby beekeeper. She is on the Planning Team of the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, which organizes the Common Ground Fair. You can see her at the MOFGA booth at the fair every year, and, so devoted is she that she always took vacation time to do this. We congratulate Donna and thank her for 25 years of state service! **CONTACT: Tony VanDenBossche at 287-1474 or tony.vandenbossche@maine.gov**

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

SPO pilots "Smart Strip." The State Planning Office is participating in a "pilot" study as the State explores new ways to become more energy and cost efficient. Each workstation at 184 State Street is now using energy saving "Smart" power strips. Buildings and Grounds Services will conduct a comparison of the meter readings for September through December against meter records for the previous four years. The purpose is to determine if "Smart" energy power strips would be a good investment for the state to further reduce electrical usage in the various offices statewide.

The “Smart Strips” are configured so that non-essential equipment such as lights, printers, fans, etc. shut down automatically when the computer or control unit is turned off. Essential items such as a phone are plugged into a different area on the “Smart Strip” that allows them to stay on. This pilot coincides with Maine’s participation in the Northeast States Electronics Challenge to “green” the operations and maintenance of computers and related equipment. If the project proves successful, a recommendation will be submitted to expand the program to all state buildings. **CONTACT: Jetta Antonakos at (207) 287-9074 or jetta.antonakos@maine.gov**

Waste Bytes! The August 2009 edition of *Waste Bytes*, the recycling newsletter, is available at:

<http://www.maine.gov/spo/recycle/docs/newsletter/August09WasteBytesGW.pdf>

This edition discusses how single-sort recycling can reduce the impact of climate change and global warming. It also contains articles on metal and plastics recycling, free collection of obsolete pesticides, and the upcoming annual meeting of the Maine Resource Recovery Association. **CONTACT: Bruce White at 287-8053 or bruce.white@maine.gov**

GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY

Heating oil price averages stay the same. The Governor’s Office of Energy Independence and Security’s August 24, 2009, survey found the current statewide average cash price for No. 2 heating oil to be \$2.42 per gallon, the same as last week. The statewide kerosene price average is \$2.83 per gallon at this time. The most recent average statewide price of gasoline and diesel in Maine as posted by AAA’s *Daily Fuel Gauge Report* is \$2.69 per gallon for gasoline, and \$2.74 for diesel fuel. At the time of this release the price of WTI crude oil, a major driver of refined product price including heating oil, was \$73.90 per barrel. **CONTACT: Ian Burnes at 287-8927 or ian.burnes@maine.gov**

MAINE COASTAL PROGRAM

Maine receives nearly \$115,000 in federal habitat restoration grants. Three projects in Maine were select to receive grants to restore coastal fisheries habitats. The projects in Bradley, Lisbon, and Winterport will provide remove dams and construct fishways for trout and salmon among other species. The projects are funded by The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (GOMC) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service. For more information on the GOMC-NOAA habitat restoration grants program and habitat restoration strategy, visit:

www.gulfofmaine.org/habitatrestoration.

CONTACT: Slade Moore at 287-8935 or slade.moore@maine.gov



Register your coastal clean-up event on-line.

Anyone wishing to participate in Coastweek's coastal clean-up may register on-line at:

<http://www.maine.gov/spo/coastal/projects/coastweek/index.htm>. Volunteers organize and participate in coastal clean-up events along Maine's coast. Coastal Cleanup is the biggest volunteer event in the state. **CONTACT:** Lorraine Lessard at 287-1486 or lorraine.lessard@maine.gov

State announces public information meetings for ocean energy demonstration sites.

The State will hold five public information meetings in September to hear from key stakeholders about possible sites to demonstrate new technologies for deepwater, offshore wind energy.

State legislation passed unanimously in June mandates that the Department of Conservation and the State Planning Office work together to identify between one and five demonstration sites in Maine's coastal waters. Demonstration sites are places where new technologies can be tested to see how they fare in offshore conditions. This test sites are intended to lead to the installation and servicing of large projects farther offshore in the Gulf of Maine, which has enormous energy potential and help Maine achieve its alternative energy goals.

The meetings will be held in Ellsworth, Wiscasset, Machias, Wells, and Rockport. For more information: <http://www.maine.gov/spo/specialprojects/OETF>. **CONTACT:** Kathleen Leyden at 287-3144 or Kathleen.leyden@maine.gov

MAINE COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

Honor those who lost their lives on 9/11 through service. The Governor's Office, the Maine Commission for Community Service, and the City of Bangor are planning a

service project in honor of 9/11. September 11 is a *Day of Service and Remembrance* and part of the [United We Serve](#) campaign promoted by President Obama. Together with community volunteers, Maine AmeriCorps and National Civilian Community Corps members will cleanup and restore a park in the Park Wood Transitional Housing area in Bangor on September 11, 2009 from 2:30–6 pm. Governor Baldacci will join us to kick off the event.

The Park Wood Transitional Housing area at 1201 Union Street, Bangor is for people and their families who were homeless or on the verge of homelessness. While tenants there, residents learn life skills and, with the help of the various programs, work towards independence. The park is in need of TLC to make it inviting and safe for residents and families in the community. The MCCA seeks volunteers to clear underbrush, plant perennials, create a picnic area, and mark plants in the area. We are also looking for donations of picnic tables, benches, perennials, food for volunteers, and materials to make signs that label plant life. **CONTACT: Rochelle Runge at 287-8933 or rochelle.runge@maine.gov.**

LAND USE PLANNING

Model wind energy facility ordinance completed. The SPO Land Use and Coastal teams are pleased to announce completion of the *Model Wind Energy Facility Ordinance*. This model ordinance has been developed by the State Planning Office, with the assistance of the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments, in response to a recommendation by the Governor's Task Force on Wind Power Development and to numerous queries from communities throughout the state about the regulation of both small and large wind energy facilities.

In keeping with the Task Force's recommendation, this model ordinance is designed to:

- expedite well-sited wind energy development to advance state climate change and renewable energy policies and provide related business opportunities;
- facilitate coordination of and consistency between state and local review through use of common terms, standards, and findings, where appropriate; and
- recognize and provide specific approaches to address issues of local concern.

The model ordinance can be downloaded at <http://www.maine.gov/spo/landuse/index.htm>. All Maine communities are being notified of the release of the model, which includes improvements reflecting feedback

SPO received on a widely-circulated May draft version. An accompanying guidebook for users of the model ordinance is undergoing final editing and will be released in the coming weeks. **CONTACT: Phil Carey at 287-3860 or phil.carey@maine.gov**