



WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Week October 1, 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.

DIRECTORS POLICY AND MANAGEMENT TEAM

Intergovernmental Advisory Commission disbanded. On September 12, 2009, the Legislature's action ([Public Law 2009, Chapter 30](#)) to abolish the Intergovernmental Advisory Commission took effect. The Commission was created in 2005 to improve communication, cooperation and efficiencies within all 3 branches of government and provide state assistance to encourage regionalization and cost-effective service delivery. The commission, chaired first by then Representative Chris Barstow and recently by Representative Theresa Hayes, produced a *Blueprint for Maine* with a number of recommendations that have found their way into current policy discussions including tax reform, restructuring county jail funding, and strengthening regional government. The State Planning Office served on the commission and provided staff support to it. **CONTACT:** Jody Harris at 287-5424 or jody.harris@maine.gov

THE COASTAL PROGRAM

Newly Designated 'Clean Marina' in Kennebunkport. Kennebunkport now has its first Clean Marina! Kennebunkport Marina achieved Gold level designation – a tremendous above-compliance accomplishment meaning that they scored 100% in all five of the Program's areas of concern. The purpose of the Maine Boatyards and Marinas Program is to curb coastal pollution resulting from stormwater runoff, boat maintenance, fueling activities, waste storage and disposal, and boat sewage.

Kennebunkport Marina owners Kristyn and Peter Martin give credit to their staff and remarked how important it is to them that they become a part of the Program. “We know that our customers share our concerns about the environment. Achieving designation as a Clean Marina helps strengthen the commitment that we share.”

Participation in the Maine Clean Boatyards & Marinas Program is voluntary, and participating facilities complete a self-assessment, work with assistance providers to make needed improvements, sign a pledge, and then invite a verification team to inspect the facility. The program is implemented by the Maine Marine Trade Association and agency partners with funding from the Maine Coastal Program. **CONTACT: Paula Thomson at 287-1482 or paula.thomson@maine.gov.**

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

September 25, 26, and 27, 2009, was the 33rd Annual Common Ground Fair in Unity. The first day was characterized as beautiful but windy and found many students in the opening day’s attendance of 16,900. The State Planning Office had a booth that shared staffing over the three days with volunteers from the board of the Maine Resource Recovery Association (MRRRA).

The display this year was reusable shopping bags to emphasize ‘the reduce and reuse’ concepts that are in the solid waste management hierarchy. Continuing that theme, the ever popular compost bin (from the annual MRRRA compost bin sale) drew in many visitors for a discussion of backyard composting. With MRRRA offering educational opportunities and a marketing co-op for the rural towns of Maine, the fair was a natural setting. Every conversation came together nicely with questions either about recycling or composting. While we often wonder if it is worthwhile to reach out to devoted groups and individuals such as found at the Common Ground Fair, the numbers and reinforcement from discussions about recycling seem to suggest that this is one of the more worthwhile outreach events. **CONTACT: Bruce White at 287-8053 or bruce.white@maine.gov**

MAINE COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE



Harold Shaw, Program Grants Officer, is leaving the Commission. During his time with the Commission he has created a new electronic reporting system, managed the selection of AmeriCorps grants, and become the Commission expert on recovery funds. Harold has been a true asset to the team and will be truly missed. We wish Him the best of luck in

his new adventure! **CONTACT: Rochelle Runge at 287-8933 or rochelle.runge@maine.gov .**

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY

Heating Oil Average Down by a Cent. The Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security (OEIS) conducted its off season oil survey and has found that the current statewide average cash price for No. 2 heating oil to be at **\$2.35 per gallon** down slightly from last week's survey. Within the OEIS sample, the lowest actual heating oil price of \$2.00 per gallon was found in the Southwestern region. The high-end price of \$2.65 per gallon was found in the Eastern region. The statewide kerosene price average is \$2.76 per gallon at this time. At the time of this release the price of WTI crude oil, major driver of refined product prices, including heating oil was \$66.55. **CONTACT: Ian Burnes at 287-8927 or ian.burnes@maine.gov .**