



WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Week ending March 20, 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 Oil Prices Continue to Drop. 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 **\$2.07 per gallon** dropping \$.03 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 \$1.57 per gallon was found in the Southwestern region. The high-end price of \$2.30 per gallon was found in the Northern and Central regions. At the time of this release the price of WTI crude oil, major driver of refined product prices, including heating oil was \$34.45 down more than five dollars from last week. The statewide kerosene price average is \$2.53 per gallon at this time. This is the last scheduled survey for this heating season of 2008-2009. **CONTACT: Ian Burnes at 287-8927 or ian.burnes@maine.gov .**

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS



Sy Cody White (center), 1st Place Winner of the Maine Recycles Video Contest, receives his award. Shown with Jetta Antonakos, SPO, and Peter Dewitt, Time Warner Cable.

Video Contest Announces Winners. Winners of the Maine Recycles Video Contest (MRVC) were announced this past Saturday, March 14 at an event held in their honor at the Maine State Museum. Nearly 60 attended, representing students and their schools from around the state. The competition challenge was to create a 30-second video encouraging residents to recycle more and throw away less.

Over 127 videos from 35 schools competed. The winner will be aired as a public service announcement on Time Warner Cable stations across Maine. Additionally, a top-20 video compilation will be distributed to Maine's community access television stations. Jetta Antonakos, SPO, and Peter DeWitt, representing Time Warner Cable and the Maine Recycles Campaign Steering Committee, awarded the prizes.

Here is a list of winners:

- First Place, College and High School Category
Prize of \$500, plus a \$1,000 school technology grant
Recycling Works for Me! – Sy Cody White, New England School of Communications
- Second Place, College and High School Category: Prize \$250
It's Simple – David Caldwell and Harlow Waltz, Central Area Technical Center,
- People's Choice, College and High School Category: Prize of \$250.
Don't Cheat on Recycling – Andrew George, Benjamin Woodbury, Yarmouth High School

To learn more about the contest, including semi-finalists and those recognized for Honorable Mention, go to

<http://www.maine.gov/spo/recycle/schools/videocontest.htm>. CONTACT: Jetta Antonakos at 287-9074, or jetta.antonakos@maine.gov .