



WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Week ending March 13, 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

2009 DOWNTOWN INSTITUTE – Design and Historic Preservation: Your Sense of Place
March 20, 2009 – 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM *Augusta Municipal Building Lecture Hall – 16 Cony Street.* CONTACT: Roxanne Elfin at reflin@mdf.org or 207-622-6345

Maine Commission for Community Service– Regular business meeting for the Commission. March 20, 2009 – 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM *ATM with locations in Augusta, Bangor, Presque Isle and Southern Maine.* CONTACT: Donna Bradstreet at donna.bradstreet@maine.gov or 287-5649.

Consensus Economic Forecasting Committee– Quarterly Meeting.
March 31, 2009 – 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM. *Location TBD.* CONTACT: Donna Bradstreet at donna.bradstreet@maine.gov or 287-5649.

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 **\$2.10 per gallon** dropping \$.05 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 \$1.62 per gallon was found in the Southwestern region. The high-end price of \$2.35 per gallon was found in the Northern region. 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 \$2.56 per gallon at this time. February's average natural gas price for the state is \$1.40 per therm for residential customers. That translates into \$14 per million btu's of energy for natural gas, compared with \$16.61 per MMBTU for heating oil and \$31 per MMBTU for propane at this week's price. The next scheduled survey will be on Monday March 16, 2009. **CONTACT: Ian Burnes at 287-8927 or ian.burnes@maine.gov .**

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

State Planning Office Recognized. The Maine Recycles Week Coordinator, Bruce White, grabbed the stage at the very beginning of the Director's meeting to present the Director, Martha Freeman, with a plaque for their guidance and support of the 10th annual Maine Recycles Week project, held last November. Mr. White thanked Director Freeman for the Office's continuing support of this important, state-wide recycling education effort, which has been a solidly recognized and supported public/private sector endeavor. Mr. White outlined the possible preparations necessary for the 11th year for Maine Recycles Week, (MRW) including scheduling the next meeting of the Steering Committee that oversees the week long event.

With this year's economy, the MRW Steering Committee members had voiced concerns about securing sponsors for the 2009 Maine Recycles Week, but Mr. White noted that support has been quite constant over recent years. Participation from schools and communities was up in 2008, compared to earlier years, perhaps in part from media

attention recognizing recycling/reuse operations and the ongoing efforts of the promotional campaign “Maine Recycles”. The MRW Steering Committee and the State Planning Office Waste Management and Recycling Program would like to sincerely thank the business and citizens of Maine for their support in 2008 – as well as over the last decade. **CONTACT: Bruce White at 287-8053 or bruce.white@maine.gov / www.recyclemaine.com.**

Floodplain Management Program Releases Newsletter. In the March issue of, *Maine Floodplain and Mapping News*, read articles related to flood insurance, SPO’s Special Report on Interagency Cooperation for Floodplain Mapping, and information on upcoming Webinars and Workshops. To read this and other newsletters from the Floodplain Management Program [visit them online](#). **CONTACT: Joseph Young at 287-8051 or joseph.young@maine.gov.**

DIRECTOR’S POLICY AND MANAGEMENT TEAM

SPO staffers help out at land conference. John Del Vecchio, Tim Glidden, Jody Harris, Sue Inches, and Mike LeVert lent a hand to the New England Governor’s Land Conference on March 11, 2009. The conference was part of the outreach of the New England Governors Blue Ribbon Commission to recommend new initiatives that will advance regional land conservation efforts. A group of the most knowledgeable and involved people in Maine land conservation were invited to give advice on what the six governors might do collaboratively to ensure that land conservation continues to go forward in New England. The results of the meeting will be forwarded to the New England Governor’s Blue Ribbon Commission. **CONTACT: John Del Vecchio at 287-8058 or john.delvecchio@maine.gov .**