



WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Week ending April 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.

MAINE COASTAL PROGRAM

Ocean Energy Task Force submits interim report to Governor. On April 15, Governor Baldacci received an interim report from the task force that he created by Executive Order to recommend ways to increase energy generation from coastal waters. The report describes the task force's process, organization, and work plan; its efforts to coordinate with federal agencies; and its public involvement strategies. The report also contains one interim recommendation that has already been completed -- to develop legislation to create a General Permit provision (under the Natural Resources Protection Act) to facilitate ocean energy research and demonstration projects. The interim report concludes that creation of the Ocean Energy Task Force has provided a forum to develop ocean energy resources and related business opportunities collaboratively across many agencies and interests and in a sustainable and environmentally responsible manner. This task force has helped spark the interest and excitement of the Maine public in a cleaner energy future that will reduce our dependence on imported fossil fuels and help stabilize the climate, while creating good jobs for Maine people. To see the report:

http://www.maine.gov/spo/specialprojects/OETF/Documents/OETF_InterimReport.pdf

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COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Cumberland and York County Preliminary Maps Scheduled for Release. Preliminary digital flood rate maps (DFIRMS) for Cumberland County are scheduled for release early in May. The York County maps should be close behind scheduled for late in May or early June. This will mark a new phase in the mapping process for these counties.

Community meetings are being scheduled for June 22nd and 23rd. Local officials will be able to meet with Contractor, FEMA and State representatives to review the maps and discuss the process for appealing floodplain delineations and protesting errors on the maps.

These meetings will also cover the process and time line for adopting final maps. To facilitate in this effort FEMA has compiled a library of brochures and posters that can be customized by community officials to assist in providing information on the remapping process to the public. These templates can be reviewed at [FEMA's Website](#).
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Maine Honored by US EPA. At a ceremony in Boston on Earth Day 2009, Maine was honored with an Environmental Merit Award for its accomplishment implementing the Northeast States Electronics Challenge (SEC). Maine's work is a collaborative effort involving the Office of Information Technology, Division of Purchases, State Surplus Property, Department of Environmental Protection, and the State Planning Office. This award recognizes Maine's leadership in electronics purchasing and end-of-life management.

In December of 2007, Maine was one of the first to join the Northeast State Electronics Challenge (SEC), a voluntary program that encourages state, regional, and local governments, including schools, colleges, universities, and other public entities, to face the new challenges posed by the electronics waste stream. Funding for SEC project is provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, with assistance provided through the Northeast Recycling Council (NERC). The SEC is committed to helping its participants: purchase greener computers, reduce the impacts of computers during use, and manage obsolete computer products in an environmentally safe way.

The states of Maine, Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont all participated in

developing the SEC – Northeast Pilot with its sponsoring organization, the Northeast Recycling Council (NERC). To date, 30 government entities – with more than 40,000 employees – have signed on as SEC Partners, making a commitment to improve the environmental footprint of their computer assets. To learn more about the SEC, visit the web site: (www.stateelectronicschallenge.net). **CONTACT: Jetta Antonakos at 287–9074 or jetta.antonakos@maine.gov .**

The State Planning Office greeted students and visitors to the Colby College campus on Earth Day 2009. Festivities were held in the new LEEDS certified student center. The Waste Management and [Recycling Program's](#) table emphasized Recycling and Composting. Discussion flowed freely about food waste composting and Colby's success with several innovative measures in their dining areas. Their success was in part due to the assistance provided by Sam Morris of SPO. One vendor from the Lakeside Orchards in Manchester, Maine, also had constructive and favorable comments for the Land of Maine's Future Program and the easement that has assisted their operation. **CONTACT: Bruce White at 287–5083 or bruce.white@maine.gov.**

ECONOMICS AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Economics and Demographics Newsletter Released. In this edition, discover topics ranging from the census, taxes, the economy, to real estate. The newsletter is prepared by the Maine State Planning Office's Economics and Demographics Team. It is designed to provide economic and demographic information and analysis to state policy makers and affiliates of the Maine State Data Center. Click [here](#) to read the full newsletter and access archives from previous editions. **CONTACT: Joseph Young at 287–8051 or Joseph.young@maine.gov .**

MAINE COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

Governor Marks National Volunteer Week by Honoring Maine Citizens. In an overflowing Hall of Flags, Governor John Baldacci presented five exceptional Maine volunteers and three outstanding organizations with the 2009 Governor's Volunteer Service Awards. The awards are presented annually during National Volunteer Week, the annual celebration of citizen volunteer action and the impact it has on critical needs in communities.

Volunteer of the Year was presented to Heidi Bowden of Augusta.
Jenni Ricci of Portland received the **Outstanding National Service Volunteer** award.

The Outstanding Public Sector Volunteer award was given to Jackie Ayotte of St. Agatha.

James Knight of Belfast was selected as the Youth Volunteer of the Year.

Excellence in Volunteer Administration was awarded to Steven Hurd of the Togus Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Augusta.

The Outstanding Non-Profit Award was presented to Trekkers of South Thomaston. Bayside Supermarket of Milbridge, represented by Leola Carter, was recognized with the Small Business Volunteerism Award.

The Corporate Volunteerism Award was presented to Hannaford and was accepted by Beth Newlands-Campbell and Steve Caulver.

Immediately after the Hall of Flags ceremony, more than 100 volunteers were recognized by Governor Baldacci at a ceremony in the atrium of the Maine Museum. Each of those individuals had contributed over 500 hours to programs scattered from Presque Isle to Winthrop to Biddeford. Their level of service resulted in their names being added to the Roll of Honor for the 2009 Governor's Volunteer Service Award.

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Photo Contest Winner Announced. The Maine Commission for Community Service recently held a photo contest celebrating volunteerism in the state of Maine in honor of Volunteer Week. This year's theme was, "Volunteers in Action." The winning photograph and honorable mentions were on display at this weeks Governor's Volunteer Service Awards. The winning photograph, entitled "Pushing the Sheep Shed," was

taken by Jennifer Livingston of Cape Elizabeth. Jennifer is an AmeriCorps VISTA with Maine Campus Compact and works with students at the Maine College of Art. To see all the photographs submitted click [here](#). **CONTACT: Rochelle Runge at 287-8933 or rochelle.runge@maine.gov .**