



WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Week ending May 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.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY

Heating Oil Price Averages Dropping Slightly. The Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security (OEIS) conducted and is publishing the first oil survey of the off season and has found that the current statewide average cash price for No. 2 heating oil to be at **\$2.10 per gallon**. "In these difficult economic times our office wants to provide oil consumers with the best information on prices across the state and in their region." says OEIS Director John Kerry. 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 \$1.65 per gallon was found in the Southwestern region. The high-end price of \$2.40 per gallon was found in the Central region. At the time of this release the price of WTI crude oil, major driver of refined product prices, including heating oil was \$48.53. The statewide kerosene price average is \$2.54 per gallon at this time. The next survey is scheduled for May 4, 2009.

CONTACT: Ian Burnes at 287-8927 or ian.burnes@maine.gov .

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

State Planning Office sponsors 16th Annual Maine Recycling & Solid Waste Conference. The conference will be held from May 4th to 5th at the Bar Harbor Club, Bar Harbor. SPO will host two workshops one on strategic planning where representative will share insights on what municipal solid waste operations need to be aware of. The second will cover Maine reporting requirements and explain recent and pending changes in reports required to file for licensing. SPO will also sit on a panel where the challenges of small towns will be discussed. Other workshops include school recycling, single stream recycling, working with the media, surviving a challenging economy, and composting yard and leaf waste. **CONTACT: Jetta Antonakos at 287-9074 or jetta.antonakos@maine.gov .**

Maine Businesses Partner with State Campaign. The Maine Beer & Wine Wholesalers Association are partnering with the Maine Recycles campaign to promote recycling in our state. During May, the Association's business members will distribute 100,000 coasters to restaurants and businesses throughout Maine. May is the "launch month" for this project. The 4" lightweight square coasters are made with recycled fiber and feature 4 different versions from the campaign's poster series. Along with coasters, businesses will receive two new additions to the poster series. Using an upbeat friendly approach, the campaign message, "Recycling Works! Every day we use things made from recycled materials," encourages everyone to participate. To learn more about the Maine Recycles Campaign, visit www.mainerecycles.com . **CONTACT: Jetta Antonakos at 287-9074 or jetta.antonakos@maine.gov .**



ECONOMICS AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Revenue Forecasting Committee meets. The State's Revenue Forecasting Committee (RFC) met in Augusta on April 28th to update its fall revenue forecast. The RFC will submit its final report to the Governor and Legislature by May 1. The following paragraphs describe the preliminary recommendations discussed at the April 28th meeting.

Based on the most recent economic data, and information on year-to-date revenues, the committee decreased its projection of FY2009 General Fund revenue by \$129 million. The largest reductions were in sales and individual income tax revenues. The committee decreased its projection for the FY2010–2011 biennium by \$440 million. In total, the committee projects total General Fund revenues for FY2009 to be \$2,832 million.

Highway Fund revenues will also be lower than expected, mainly due to lower vehicle registrations and lower projected rates of inflation (taxes on motor vehicle fuel are indexed to inflation). The committee lowered its FY2009 projection by \$17 million and FY10–11 biennium by \$42 million. In total, the committee projects total Highway Fund revenues for FY2009 to be \$325 million. The full report, when available, can be found here: http://www.maine.gov/legis/ofpr/revenue_forecasting_committee/index.htm

The Revenue Forecasting Committee comprises the State Tax Assessor, State Budget Officer, and State Economist; the Director and Principal Analyst of the Legislature's Office of Fiscal and Program Review; and an economist from the University of Maine System. The Legislature's Office of Fiscal and Program Review staffs the committee. It meets twice a year to project revenues for the State's General Fund, Highway Fund, and other dedicated funds, for use by state budgeters. **CONTACT: Michael LeVert at 287-1479 or michael.levert@maine.gov .**

MAINE COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

AmeriCorps Week is May 9th–16th. AmeriCorps Week provides an opportunity for



AmeriCorps members, alums, grantees, program partners, and friends to shine a spotlight on the work done by members in communities across the country—and to motivate more Americans to join AmeriCorps or volunteer in their communities. 3,500 people have served as AmeriCorps members since 1994 in Maine alone. \$11,700,000 in education awards have been provided to AmeriCorps members in Maine. Governor Baldacci

will sign a proclamation officially making May 9th–16th AmeriCorps week in Maine at a special signing ceremony on May 11th attended by AmeriCorps members, alumni, and commissioners from the Maine Commission for Community service. Click [here](#) to learn more about what's going on in your community during AmeriCorps Week. **CONTACT: Rochelle Runge at 287-8933 or rochelle.runge@maine.gov .**