



## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

*Week ending June 19, 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**

**SPO Receives Award.** The Maine Association of Planners has recognized the SPO/MCP supported Scenic Assessment Handbook as the most outstanding achievement in planning for 2009. The achievement recognition is inscribed on a silver bowl adding to a long history of planning accomplishment reaching back to 1975. The Handbook was created by Terry DeWan, DeWan Associates working closely with Jim Connors and Coastal Program planners. The richly illustrated Handbook provides a "how to guide" on the use of the scenic resources inventory methodology. The Handbook also provides historical context on the development of the methodology, information about scenic resource plans and programs, and the process of prioritizing scenic areas and view points for planning, conservation, and development purposes. **CONTACT: Jim Connors [jim.connors@maine.gov](mailto:jim.connors@maine.gov). or 287-8938.**

**Maine Coastal Program, Coastal Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP).** The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has been awarded \$344,642 in FY09 CELCP funding for the acquisition of critical habitat lands in the Merrymeeting Bay Conservation focus area. State projects for CELCP funding are nominated through the Coastal Program for consideration in the national competition for federal funding. The Merrymeeting Bay project was ranked fifth on the national list. This grant award marks the third project in Maine to successfully compete for CELCP funds. The lands will be held by IF&W and managed as part of the Merrymeeting Bay Wildlife Management Area. **CONTACT: Jim Connors [jim.connors@maine.gov](mailto:jim.connors@maine.gov). or 287-8938.**

## **GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY**

**Heating Oil Price Averages Rising.** 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 \$2.33 per gallon \$.06 higher than last week's survey. 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 \$2.08 per gallon was found in the Southwestern region. The high-end price of \$2.55 per gallon was found in the Northern region. The statewide kerosene price average is \$2.76 per gallon at this time. The most recent average price of natural gas delivered to Maine consumers compiled by OEIS was \$11.30 for a thousand cubic feet of gas, or equivalent to heating oil at \$1.53 a gallon. The most recent average statewide price of gasoline and diesel in Maine as posted by AAA's Daily Fuel Gauge Report was \$2.59 per gallon for gasoline, and \$2.55 for diesel fuel. At the time of this release the price of WTI crude oil, major driver of refined product prices, including heating oil was \$68.58. The next survey is scheduled for June 22, 2009. **CONTACT: Ian Burnes at 287-8927 or [ian.burnes@maine.gov](mailto:ian.burnes@maine.gov) .**

## **COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

**Maine Recycles Campaign – Recycling Works!** Next time you are enjoying yourself at a favorite restaurant or bar, take a peek underneath your glass. You may find a colorful coaster encouraging you to recycle! Thanks to a partnership of the Maine Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association, the Maine State Planning Office, and the Maine Recycles Campaign, recycling “coasters and posters” are appearing in local restaurants and bars. It's another way to remind us that “Recycling works!” The coasters explain that “Every day we use things made from recycled materials.” And one quick example is the coaster itself – – like its matching poster, it's made from recycled paper and can be reused, and recycled when no longer useful. Mainers do a good job of recycling, averaging a state recycling rate of 35%. **CONTACT: Jetta Antonakos at [jetta.antonakos@maine.gov](mailto:jetta.antonakos@maine.gov) or 287-9074.**