



WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Week ending July 3, 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.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

State Electronics Challenge Saves More Than Money. To reduce the environmental impact of the state's technology equipment, the state of Maine requires that all its new computer equipment be green certified (based on criteria established the independent, national, nonprofit organization, [EPEAT](#)). In addition, state government is working to reduce the solid waste generation and greenhouse gas emissions of its computers.

These activities will:

- extend the life of Maine's computer fleet through cost-effective memory and system upgrades. The result is an additional year or two of service per unit;
- achieve energy and cost efficiencies through power-saving devices and software; and
- reduce solid waste, greenhouse gas emissions and costs with "greener," efficient shipping standards that require all computer equipment deliveries to be consolidated and packaged in recyclable materials.

Representatives from the Office of Information Technology, Purchasing, Surplus, DEP and SPO are collaborating to make this effort a success. Their work is guided by the State Electronics Challenge, a voluntary program developed and administered by the Northeast Recycling Council and modeled on EPA's Federal Electronic Challenge. Jetta Antonakos, SPO recycling planner, coordinates the team. **CONTACT: Jetta Antonakos at (207) 287-9074 or jetta.antonakos@maine.gov.**

MAINE COASTAL PROGRAM

Coastal habitat restoration projects totaling \$167 million announced. Fifty marine and coastal habitat restoration projects totaling \$167 million were announced by Commerce Secretary Gary Locke this Tuesday. The projects are expected to benefit local communities and ecosystems by providing economic stimulus and supporting ecological resilience. Once complete, the selected projects will result in more than 8,900 acres of restored habitat and 700 miles of streams re-opened to fish passage. Other project will remove debris, aid in the recovery of shellfish habitat and improve management of 11,750 acres of coral reefs. Among the 50 proposals selected from a pool of 814 applicants were two Maine projects. Removal of the Great Works Dam on the Penobscot River will represent a key element in the larger Penobscot River restoration project intended to aid the recovery of the endangered Atlantic salmon and other anadromous fishes. Total amount awarded for the dam removal is \$6.1 million. In another Maine project, fish passage barriers throughout the Machias River watershed will re-establish access to 66 miles of habitat for Atlantic salmon and other migratory aquatic organisms. Cost of the Machias project is \$1.7 million. **CONTACT:** Slade Moore at 287-8935 or slade.moore@maine.gov.

MAINE COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

Impact of Kennedy Serve America Act Discussed with Maine's Political Leaders.

Representative Michael Michaud, Allison Geagan, Staff Assistant to Senator Olympia Snowe and Emma Jakins from Senator Susan Collins office met with members of the Maine Commission for Community Service along with representatives of Maine's National Service programs (AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, Learn & Serve) and nonprofits Saturday June, 27th. The morning session explored the potential opportunities for Maine as a result of the Kennedy Serve America Act. In the federal budget that is currently under consideration, funding is proposed for two of the newly created programs - the Social Innovation Fund and the Volunteer Generation Fund. The latter would provide sustainability to an eight-year-old Maine Commission initiative to bring professional development and training opportunities to managers of volunteers throughout the state. During the meeting, considerable excitement was evident relative to programs likely to be funded in 2011 or later. In particular, Silver Scholars would allow citizens 55 years of age and older to qualify for a \$1,000 education award that they can reserve in the name of a grandchild, foster child, or their own child. Another new program of strong interest is Summer of Service which would bring service-learning out of the school and into summer programs for youth. The program

authorizes up to \$500 scholarship for 6–12 graders who complete 100 hours of service during a summer. The Maine Commission for Community Service recently issued a report to the Corporation for National and Community Service in response to their request for suggestions for implementation of the new Act. The [full report](#) can be read on the Commission website. **CONTACT: Rochelle Runge at 287–8933 or rochelle.runge@maine.gov.**

Senior Corps Week July 13–17. Senior Corps Week is an opportunity to highlight the impact of Seniors Corps volunteers in Maine, celebrate their service, and invite others to join. Senior Corps connects today's over 55's with the people and organizations that need them most; they volunteer as mentors, coaches, companions to people in need, and contribute valuable experience and job skills. In celebration of Senior Corps Week, Governor Baldacci will sign a proclamation on July 13th at a special ceremony, encouraging Maine people statewide to participate. In 2008 Senior Corps Volunteers numbered 2,378 and served more than 620,000 hours. The economic contribution of Senior Corps Volunteers in Maine alone is \$12,103,458. **CONTACT: Rochelle Runge at 287–8933 or rochelle.runge@maine.gov.**

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY

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 \$2.34 per gallon \$.01 lower than last week's survey. Within the OEIS sample, the lowest actual heating oil price of \$1.99 per gallon was found in the Southwestern region. The high-end price of \$2.60 per gallon was found in the Northern region. The statewide kerosene price average is \$2.77 per gallon at this time. The table above provides current Maine cash prices in dollars rounded to the nearest penny. 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 \$2.70 per gallon for gasoline, and \$2.67 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 \$66.85. The next survey is scheduled for June 29, 2009. **CONTACT: Ian Burnes at 287–8927 or ian.burnes@maine.gov**