



WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Week September 25, 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.

THE COASTAL PROGRAM

NOAA visits Maine to review the Maine Coastal Program. Last week, the Office of Coastal Zone Management (OCRM) at the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) came to Maine to conduct an evaluation of the Maine Coastal Program (MCP). NOAA administers the federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) and Maine's CZMA grant that is used to balance conservation and sound development of coastal areas.

The NOAA review team saw Maine's coast at its finest -- from Portland to Eastport, with stops in Yarmouth, Augusta, Ellsworth, MDI, Tremont, Machias, Machiasport, Sullivan, Millbridge and Bangor; and heard from its coastal professionals, town officials, staff from NGOs, federal agency staff, and others about the MCP's work. The review team heard comments and stories about many of the MCP's grant-funded efforts and valuable partnerships, and listened to descriptions of the challenges facing the Maine coast and its residents. They enjoyed two outstanding and informative boat trips in Taunton Bay and Eastport, the latter courtesy of the US Coast Guard.

Now back in D.C. and Maryland, the NOAA review team is drafting their findings and recommendations and we expect to see them in a few months time. A copy of their report will be posted on the MCP website, www.maineoceanprogram.org. **CONTACT:** Kathleen Leyden at 207-287-3144 or kathleen.leyden@maine.gov.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The Code Enforcement Officer Training and Certification program will sponsor a training workshop on Issues in the Shoreland Zone. The Department of Environmental Protection's Shoreland Zoning Unit will present this advanced workshop. Issues covered include, but are not limited to; erosion control issues and plans, state-wide timber harvesting standards, nonconformance issues, clearing standards and lot coverage, water-dependent uses, inland waterfowl and wading bird habitat ratings, and guideline amendments. 175 participants are expected. Workshops will be offered in the following locations:

Auburn – November 16th at Auburn Public Library

Presque Isle – November 17th at Presque Isle City Hall

Bangor – November 18th at Spectacular Events Center in Bangor

Portland – November 19th at Abromson Center USM in Portland

Machias – November 20th at CareerCenter in Machias

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The Maine Resource Recovery Association held its annual meeting and workshops this

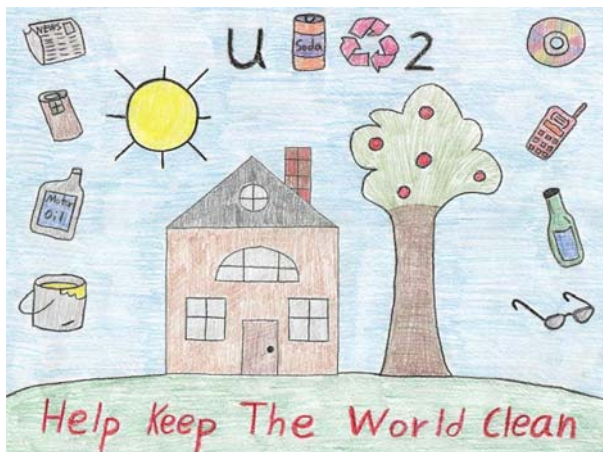


year at Point Lookout in Northport. On Monday, September 21, 2009, a small gathering enjoyed a great day on the Coast to learn more about composting, transfer station operations, safety concerns, and promoting recycling. The State Planning Office was represented in three out of four sessions with: George MacDonald speaking in the composting session and then in the Legislative and Program Update sessions,

while Sam Morris and Lana LaPlante-Ellis made presentations in the Recycling News session. Bruce White roused more interest in having participants return to their communities with Maine Recycles Week 2009 on each attendees mind. Posters for both the Maine Recycles Week and the Maine Recycles campaign greeted each representative upon their arrival. Everyone was encouraged to visit the web site at www.mainerecycles.com for more recycling ideas. **CONTACT: Bruce White at 287-8053 or bruce.white@maine.gov**

The Maine Recycles Week 2009 poster will appear shortly in your mail box. This year's MRW2009 poster was rolled, wrapped, labeled and out the door on the morning of September 16. Each municipality and school in the State of Maine was sent at least one poster to help promote this annual event. With their posters, the schools received invitations and rules for both the recycling poster competition and the school recycling contests. Additional information related to the week-long state-wide event, held November 8th to 15th, is available at www.mainerecycles.com.

This year's Maine Recycles Week poster proudly displays the winning art work of a Livermore Falls high school student. Last November, as the members of the MRW Steering Committee selected the pictures for the 2009 Maine Recycles Calendar, this



particular picture kept being revisited for the cryptic message: "You can recycle too". Once every one saw it a winner was found. The poster that stood out from more than 1800 that were submitted in the competition!

The Maine Recycles Week Steering Committee asks that each of us take time to recognize the sponsors that make all of this happen – this year's sponsors are

listed prominently on each poster along with the web site. Separate mailings should reach all the schools in Maine as well as the municipal offices. Additional copies of the poster may be ordered on line at the web site. **CONTACT: Bruce White at 287-8053 or bruce.white@maine.gov** .

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT TEAM

The latest issue of "Maine Floodplain Management and Mapping News," was released this week. In this issue find articles on flood insurance, reducing flood losses, floodplain mapping, Maine's certified floodplain managers, and advanced workshops on code enforcement. To sign up for future editions and to read September's newsletter visit, <http://www.maine.gov/spo/flood/index.htm> . **CONTACT: Joseph Young (207) 287-8051 or Joseph.Young@maine.gov**

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY

Heating Oil Average Ticks Down. 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 **\$2.36 per gallon** down slightly from 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 \$2.05 per gallon was found in the Southwestern region. The high-end price of \$2.65 per gallon was found in the Eastern region. The statewide kerosene price average is \$2.77 per gallon at this time. At the time of this release the price of WTI crude oil, major driver of refined product prices, including heating oil was \$69.50. **CONTACT: Ian Burnes at 287-8927 or ian.burnes@maine.gov .**