



## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

March 26, 2010

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**

**Ecomaine presents local recycling awards.** On March 16, 2010, ecomaine, Maine's largest recycling processing facility, presented its eco-Excellence awards for "green activities." Troy Moon, Portland's solid waste and recycling director, and Tony Plante, ecomaine's board chair, handed out almost 40 awards to member communities, schools, and volunteer recycling committees. ecomaine recognized several communities for work resulting from SPO's assistance, including Naples and Ogunquit for their outreach materials to promote recycling using a grant and materials from SPO; Portland's Lincoln Middle School for their waste reduction club, which had a winning video in the SPO competition and winning Maine Recycles Weeks posters for two years running; and Old Orchard for a video made by their local committee. For more information: <http://www.ecomaine.org/>. **CONTACT: Bruce White at 287-8053 or [bruce.white@maine.gov](mailto:bruce.white@maine.gov).**

### **LAND USE TEAM**

**Calais Industrial Waterfront Amendments Found Consistent.** Calais comprehensive plan amendments supporting the creation of a new waterfront industrial zone are consistent with the Growth Management Act. That is the finding reached March 19<sup>th</sup> by the Planning and Land Use Program. The amendments to the 2005 Calais Comprehensive Plan outline the City's vision for the addition of a riverfront port facility capable of serving deep-draft vessels. They also provide updated information on

natural resources in the area of the proposed zone. The SPO finding bolsters the City's plan to pursue its vision through the establishment of a "Marine Industrial Zone". The proposed zone, which includes the site of the proposed Calais LNG liquefied natural gas terminal, will be located approximately six miles south-southeast of the city center on the St. Croix River across from the Bayside Marine Terminal in New Brunswick. **CONTACT: Phil Carey at [phil.carey@maine.gov](mailto:phil.carey@maine.gov) or 287-3860.**

### **MAINE COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**2010 AmeriCorps Member Conference a Success!** The purpose of the conference was to bring all AmeriCorps & AmeriCorps\*VISTA members in Maine together for networking and learning opportunities. At this year's conference, 9 AmeriCorps programs (totaling 95 members) were represented. Overall attendance was nearly 100, up 20% from 2009. Pam Zeutenhorst, Training and Disability Coordinator for the Maine Commission for Community Service and Conference Coordinator, says "...In addition to providing learning opportunities, the AmeriCorps Member Conference provides an opportunity for members to meet individuals from other AmeriCorps programs that are serving in the same community and, perhaps, discover opportunities to collaborate." **CONTACT: Rochelle Runge at 287-8933 or [Rochelle.runge@maine.gov](mailto:Rochelle.runge@maine.gov) .**

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

**Maine Heating Oil Prices.** The Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security (OEIS) conducted its seasonal oil survey and found that the current statewide average cash price for No. 2 heating oil to be at \$2.69 per gallon, up one cent from last week. Within the OEIS sample, the lowest actual heating oil price of \$2.40 per gallon was found in the Southwestern region. The highest price of \$3.00 per gallon was found in the Western region. The statewide kerosene price average is \$3.04 per gallon at this time. The statewide average for propane based on a use of 600 gallons a year is \$2.82 per gallon. The next survey is scheduled for March 22, 2010. **CONTACT: Jeffrey Marks at 287-8927 or [Jeffrey.marks@maine.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.marks@maine.gov) .**