

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Week ending May 30, 2008

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.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Energy Resource Council Meeting

June 3, 2008 – 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM *Cabinet Room, Capitol Building, Augusta, Maine*

CONTACT: Donna Bradstreet at 287-5649 or donna.bradstreet@maine.gov

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS



LiDar workshop offered. The Maine Floodplain Management Program is coordinating a seminar on the uses of Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) for remote sensing and analysis on June 19, 2008 in Augusta. This technology has become very popular for creating high resolution topographic data as well as for many other uses. Its popularity has increased as costs for acquisition have become increasingly affordable. The Sanborn Mapping Corporation has graciously agreed to staff a

four-hour program to explain the uses of LiDAR, how to plan your project, and many other aspects of the technology. Space is limited to just fifty people, so we encourage people to reserve a space early. CONTACT: Joe Young at 287-8051 or joseph.young@maine.gov

Reuse centers gather. On May 27, 2008, the state's reuse centers gathered at the new facilities of Ruth's Reusable Resources in Portland. The meeting was arranged by the State Planning Office's Waste Management & Recycling Program with representation from Maine State Surplus of Augusta, the Auburn SHARECenter of Auburn, Everyone's Resource Depot of Farmington, the Maine Building Materials Exchange of Lisbon, and Ruth's Reusable Resources of Portland. Participants began with a tour of Ruth's Reusable Resources new facility. Following the tour, the group discussed a variety of shared topics from funding and marketing to attracting volunteers. Also, Christine Beling from the Environmental Protection Agency's Region 1 Office was present to talk how EPA can help and support the reusable efforts in Maine. The group finished the day with a tour of the ecomaine recycling facilities. **CONTACT: Bruce White at 287-8053 or bruce.white@maine.gov**

CEO training offered in June. The Maine Fire Marshal's Office will present training on several NFPA codes/standards to Fire and Code Enforcement Officials June 9-10. For more information, visit www.maine fire marshal.com. **CONTACT: Lana Clough at 287-8056 or lana.clough@maine.gov**

MAINE COASTAL PROGRAM

2008 season beach monitoring begins. This weekend the Maine Healthy Beaches Program monitors will start monitoring Maine's coastal swimming beaches for the 2008 season. Forty-nine of our most visited saltwater beaches are tested for indicator bacteria once a week or more, and the results are posted on the MHB website at <http://www.mainehealthybeaches.org>. Our beach monitors are municipal & state park staff or local volunteers who complete an annual training program and agree to work under the MHB Quality Assurance Program Plan.

If water quality problems are found, the beach is re-tested and steps are taken to identify and clean up the potential sources of contamination. Program partners from several state agencies and other groups help with this work, including the University of Maine Cooperative Extension/Sea Grant, the Maine DEP & DMR, the Maine CDC, the Maine DOC, the Maine Geological Survey, and the USEPA. **CONTACT: Paula Thomson at 287-1482 or paula.thomson@Maine.gov**