



WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Week ending July 25, 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

Intergovernmental Advisory Commission

July 30, 2008 – 10:00 AM–12:00 PM, Cross Office Building, Room 216, Augusta
CONTACT: Linda LaPlante at 287-6077 or linda.c.laplante@maine.gov

Energy Resource Council Meeting

August 5, 2008 – 9:30–11:00 AM, Cabinet Room, Capitol Building, Augusta
CONTACT: Donna Bradstreet at 287-5659 or donna.bradstreet@maine.gov

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Maine disaster assistance tops \$5 million for spring floods. The Federal Emergency Management Agency announced this week that more than \$5 million in assistance has been approved following the severe storms and flooding that struck the northern and mid-coast regions of Maine this spring. Of that total, more than \$1.9 million in grants and loans have been provided to Maine households. For more information:

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=45200>. CONTACT: Sue Baker at 287-8064 or sue.baker@maine.gov

Recycling newsletter gets a face lift. SPO's recycling newsletter, formerly called "Recycle This!" has gone electronic and had a name change. The beauty of "Waste Bytes," the new electronic version of the newsletter, is that it doesn't need to be recycled —there is no waste to dispose of in the first place, despite the ubiquitous recycling bins on computer desktops. The newsletter is now emailed to over 600 town offices, libraries, local solid waste and recycling officials, citizen committee members, and other interested parties. This edition of the newsletter looks at the dramatic increase in recycling rates in southern Maine and recycling the old Cony high school, and provides a primer on recycling construction and demolition debris. It can be found at http://www.maine.gov/spo/recycle/docs/newsletter/2008_07e-newsletter.pdf .
CONTACT: Bruce White at 287-8053 or bruce.white@maine.gov.

Biddeford community TV hosts SPO. More and more communities are taking advantage of public access television to offer educational programming on municipal issues. This week, *Issue Hour*, a city of Biddeford public access program, hosted Jetta Antonakos from SPO's waste management and recycling program and Susan Millet from FCR Goodman. The city is evaluating its options for implementing a curbside recycling program and the program helped provide the public information about the city's efforts to expand recycling opportunities. **CONTACT: Jetta Antonakos at 287-9074 or jetta.antonakos@maine.gov**

ECONOMICS AND DEMOGRAPHICS

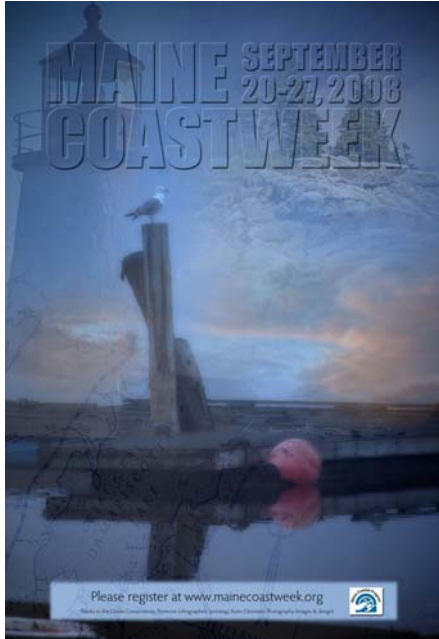
30&100 update report released. SPO has released an update to their 30 & 1000 analysis. It can be found on-line at: <http://www.maine.gov/spo>.

In 2001, SPO completed research that demonstrated that by increasing the percentage of Maine adults with 4-year college degrees to 30%, and raising the amount spent on research and development to \$1000 per employed worker, Maine's per capita income would rise to the national average or higher. Thus the 30&1000 strategy was born.

New data show that Maine has increased the percentage of adults with a bachelor's degree or higher from 19% in 1998 (46th among states) to 27% (24th among states) in 2006. Yet, in order for Maine to reach the national average for per capita income, the percentage of adults with 4-year degrees now must rise to 33%. And the level of R&D funding per employed worker must increase to \$1800. In short, 30&1000 has become

33&1800. These results reinforce the notion that 30&1000 is not a static goal, but a moving target. **CONTACT: Michael LeVert at 287-1461 or michael.levert@maine.gov**

MAINE COASTAL PROGRAM



2008 Coastweek poster available. This year's poster features a collage of photographs by Ronn Orenstein Photography. The Coastweek poster is produced annually by the Maine Coastal Program to celebrate stewardship of our coastal resources. It is widely distributed throughout Coastal Maine to town offices, schools, libraries, marine-based businesses, and coastal legislators. Each year during Coastweek, community volunteers join thousands others around the world to remove debris from our coastlines as part of the International Coastal Cleanup.

This year, Coastweek will be held the week of September 20-27. The poster reminds groups to register their clean-up event. FMI:

<http://www.maine.gov/spo/coastal/projects/coastweek/>. **CONTACT: Theresa Torrent-Ellis at 287-2351 or theresa.torrent-ellis@maine.gov**

SPO nominates projects for federal funding. As the official designated state agency, the Maine Coastal Program has nominated three projects for federal funding from the Coastal Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP pronounced Kelp). They are:

1. The acquisition of the 60-acre Pond Cove Island in Roque Bluffs for addition to Roque Bluffs State Park. Project partners are the Maine Department of Conservation and the Maine Coast Heritage Trust. Funding is also being provided through the Land for Maine's Future Program.
2. The acquisition of two parcels in Merrymeeting Bay to protect critical wildlife habitat and marine resources in the Cathence River section of the bay. These lands will be held by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife as additions to the Merrymeeting Bay Wildlife Management Area. Project partners

include Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and The Nature Conservancy. These parcels are part of an LMF funded project encompassing the Kennebec River Estuary.

3. The acquisition of a 52-acre parcel of land in Scarborough encompassing a major section of the Scarborough Marsh. Project partners include the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Friends of Scarborough Marsh, and the Scarborough Land Trust. This is also part of an LMF-funded initiative to add lands to wildlife management areas.

The CELCP is a national competitive grants program administered by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration and available to coastal states to help protect significant coastal and marine resources. **Contact: Jim Connors at 287-8938 or jim.connors@maine.gov**

LAND USE PLANNING

Stacy Benjamin resigns. SPO's Land Use Director Stacy Benjamin will leave SPO on July 25 having been part of the land use team for six years, two years as the program's director. During Stacy's tenure, the program saw dramatic change. A six-month long internal program evaluation led to a complete overhaul of the way the program reviews local comprehensive plans for consistency with state law. Stacy led this change process, which will usher in the next generation of land use planning in Maine. Stacy's combination of warmth, caring, intelligence, humor, energy, effective problem-solving, and professional integrity motivated her team, fostered relationships with towns and regions, and made the SPO a better place to work. We wish Stacy future happiness and success. **CONTACT: Jody Harris at 287-5424 or jody.harris@maine.gov**

Phil Carey appointed interim director. Land Use Planner Phil Carey will take on the duties of program director as Stacy Benjamin departs. Phil brings tremendous experience and respect. We are eternally grateful to him for taking on these extra duties! Please join me in congratulating him. **CONTACT: Jody Harris at 287-5424 or jody.harris@maine.gov**

MAINE COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

Maine Commission for Community Service welcomes new officers. CarolAnne Dube of Bangor was elected chair, Fred Schlutt of Orono as chair-elect, and Mary-Anne Beal of Waterville was elected vice-chair for 2008-2010. The Maine Commission for Community Services' board is comprised of 24 members that are designated in statute to each represent a facet of the community volunteer service sector. The commissioners are a diverse, bipartisan group of citizens, actively engaged in community service, and represent every region of the state. They elect officers from their membership who serve two-year terms. **CONTACT: Rochelle Runge at 287-8933 or Rochelle.runge@maine.gov**

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY

Heating fuel prices drop. The Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security reported that as of July 21, 2008, the statewide average cash price for No. 2 heating oil was \$4.62 per gallon, falling \$.09 from last week. The price of WTI crude oil, a major driver of refined product prices such heating oil, closed at \$129.82 per barrel dropping almost \$15 from last week, a mark of the volatility of the oil markets. The statewide kerosene price average is \$5.09 per gallon at this time. **CONTACT: Ian Burnes at 287-8927 or ian.burnes@maine.gov**