



WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Week September 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.

MAINE COASTAL PROGRAM

Public meeting on implementation of the Maine Coastal Program. The Maine Coastal Program distributes over two million dollars in federal funds annually —matched by state and local sources —for projects that benefit Maine's coastal communities.

A public meeting will be held by National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), as part of a performance evaluation of the Maine Coastal Program at 7:00pm on Tuesday, September 15, 2009, at the Ellsworth City Hall Auditorium, 1 City Hall Plaza, Ellsworth, Maine. The purpose of the meeting is to receive public comments regarding the operation and implementation of the Maine Coastal Program. Written comments are encouraged and should be sent to Kim Penn, NOAA/NOS/OCRM, 1305 East-West Highway, N/ORM7, Silver Spring MD 20910 (or via email to kim.penn@noaa.gov) no later than October 2, 2009.

In 1972 Congress responded to the rapid deterioration of coastal areas throughout the nation by passing the Coastal Zone Management Act. Administered by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, the law authorized funding for state coastal programs to improve the environmental and economic health of coastal areas. **CONTACT:** Kathleen Leyden at 287-3144 or Kathleen.leyden@maine.gov

Ogunquit uses grant to aid in beach management. Ogunquit's participation in the Maine Healthy Beaches Program showed that they had a stormwater pollution problem. But without a stormwater drainage system map, they didn't have a good idea

of where stormwater was coming from. An \$8,000 shore and harbor technical assistance grant from the Maine Coastal Program helped the town to map Ogunquit's storm water drainage system for the first time. With the grant funding plus matching funds and services from the town and the sewer district, Ogunquit now has stormwater drainage system maps that enable them to better track down sources of pollution and that help supplement other town efforts to improve the quality of water in the rivers, the estuary and at the beach.

Shore and harbor technical assistance grants are meant to promote sound waterfront planning, harbor management, and balanced development of shore and harbor areas to improve marine infrastructure and assure access to the shore. **CONTACT: Jim Connors at jim.connors@maine.gov or 287-8938.**

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Recycling awareness rises slightly. Recent survey data on recycling behaviors shows that recycling awareness in Maine is up slightly from 2006, the last time the survey was conducted. For example, in 2009,

- those who “always” recycle newspapers is 60% compared to 54% in 2006;
- 65% of 18–29 year olds reported that they always recycle newspaper; in 2006, this number was 29%; and
- 73% of 30–39 year olds always recycle newspaper; in 2006, this number was 57%.

The survey also strove to understand what motivates people to recycle. Eighty-two percent of those surveyed agreed with the statement, “When I recycle I feel like I am contributing to my community” (the same as in 2006).

The statewide survey is aimed at determining Maine residents’ behaviors on specific recycling actions. It was the basis for the statewide ‘Maine Recycles’ campaign developed to increase awareness and recycling actions of 18–39 year olds, which has been underway for nearly two years. It is way of measuring the impact of the campaign. The 2009 survey data, when compared with the 2006 survey data, shows some similarity, but the data are still ‘draft’ at this point. **CONTACT: Jetta Antonakos at (207) 287-9074 or jetta.antonakos@maine.gov.**

Recycling and reuse facilities toured. SPO's waste management and recycling team toured three Portland facilities. Staff visited *ecomaine's* waste-to-energy and single-



sort recycling facilities and Ruth's Reusable Resources reuse store. The new mechanized operation of the single-sort recycling processing facility sorts commingled loads of recycled materials with help of conveyors, magnets, and other and processing equipment. Ruth's Reusable Resources collects unwanted, surplus supplies from local businesses. Schools and non-profit organizations pay a small yearly fee so that

their teachers can shop there, at no charge, for school and art supplies. The sheer volume of these enterprises is impressive. **CONTACT: Bruce White at 287-8053 or bruce.white@maine.gov.**

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY

Heating Oil Average Dips. The Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security August 31, 2009, survey found the current statewide average cash price for No. 2 heating oil to be at \$2.40 per gallon, falling two cents since last week. The statewide kerosene price average is \$2.83 per gallon at this time. The most recent average statewide price of gasoline and diesel in Maine as posted by AAA's *Daily Fuel Gauge Report* is \$2.69 per gallon for gasoline, and \$2.75 for diesel fuel. **CONTACT: Ian Burnes at 287-8927 or ian.burnes@maine.gov**