



WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Week ending January 30, 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.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY

Heating Fuel Prices Inch Down. The Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security (OEIS) conducted the weekly oil survey and has found that the current statewide average cash price for No. 2 heating oil to be at **\$2.37 per gallon** dropping .01 since last week. 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 \$1.94 per gallon was found in the Southwestern region. The high-end price of \$2.65 per gallon was found in the Eastern region. At the time of this release the price of WTI crude oil, major driver of refined product prices, including heating oil was \$46.60 holding steady from last week. The statewide kerosene price average is \$2.82 per gallon at this time. Today's propane price survey found statewide average to be \$2.79 per gallon which is \$.02 higher than last week. The average price for propane represents the price per gallon for a 600-800 gallon domestic heating application. The next scheduled survey will be on Monday February 2, 2009.

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COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Maine Recycles Video Contest Goes Online. Judges for the Maine Recycles Video Contest have selected a group of semi-finalists from 127 entries submitted by middle school, high school and college students representing 35 schools. A panel of volunteer judges has selected one prize winning video. Now the public is invited to help pick a favorite from a small group of semi-finalists. SPO and sponsor Time Warner Cable are inviting the public to view and vote at www.yourtownscable.com. Online voting will help select the "People's Choice." Details about the video competition are at www.mainerecycles.com. **CONTACT: Jetta Antonakos, 298-9074 or jetta.antonakos@maine.gov .**

Report proposes consolidating state waste management programs. In response to LD 810, passed by the Legislature last session, DEP and SPO are proposing a consolidation of state solid waste programs at the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. Under the plan, it is proposed that the state-owned solid waste disposal facility ownership and oversight function, as well as associated capacity planning, remain at the State Planning Office, and that other solid waste planning, policy, education/outreach, technical assistance, and data functions transfer to the Department of Environmental Protection. The report was prepared for the Legislature's natural resources committee, that may report out legislation relating to the report. To view the full report: <http://www.maine.gov/spo/>. **CONTACT: Jody Harris at 287-5424 or jody.harris@maine.gov .**

Maine Floodplain Management Program submits a special report on Interagency Cooperation for Floodplain Mapping to the Joint Natural Resources Committee. To prepare the report a series of interagency meetings were held through the summer of 2008. During those meetings it was determined that all the agencies needed good high resolution topographical data, yet none of the agencies were able to fund data acquisition on a scale large enough to be beneficial, except in very special projects with supplementary grant funds. It was also recognized that small scale acquisition is very expensive and there would be substantial economies of scale through a statewide acquisition project. There was support for gathering and sharing improved topographical information and discussions on possible ways of funding such efforts. It is our combined hope that this document provides a basis of understanding of state agency (and other group's) needs for updated and correct topographical data and also serves to further efforts to secure funding and full distribution of data. [Read the full report](#). For more information **CONTACT: Joseph Young 287-8051** joseph.young@maine.gov.

Maine Floodplain Management Program releases January newsletter. In this issue learn more about the Kennebec County map meetings, the CEO certification program, and LiDar. The newsletter is produced by the Floodplain Management Team and funded with a grant provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. To read the newsletter in it entirety please [visit us online](#). **CONTACT: Joseph Young 287-8051** joseph.young@maine.gov.

Waste management planning documents completed. The state's five-year *Waste Management and Recycling Plan* and annual *Waste Generation and Capacity Report* was made available this week. The state plan looks at how municipal solid waste is being managed in Maine, assesses the effectiveness of state waste management policies, identifies issues that warrant watching, and describes strategies for how Maine might move forward managing its solid waste into the next decade. The capacity report provides an overview of Maine's municipal solid waste generation, recycling, combustion, and landfill activities for 2007, in order to project the lifespan of the state's existing municipal solid waste disposal capacity. SPO delivered both documents to the Legislature's Natural Resources Committee, the Governor, and the Department of Environmental Protection. Both documents are available on-line: [Waste Management and Recycling Plan](#) and [2007 Waste Generation and Disposal Capacity Report](#).
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COASTAL PROGRAM

Land and Water Resources Council report submitted. The Land Water Resources Council submitted its biennial report to the Legislature's Natural Resources Committee and Governor Baldacci. This report describes the Council's activities in 2007 and 2008, and notes activities that the Council anticipates in 2009. The report can be viewed on-line at: [Land and Water Resources Council, 2007-2008 Biennial Report](#). **CONTACT: Todd Burrowes at 287-1496 or todd.burrowes@maine.gov**

MAINE COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

First Step in Spring AmeriCorps Grant Round Announced. The Maine Commission for Community Service is offering local organizations and collaborations a chance to get to know AmeriCorps. This is the first step in preparation for the spring grant round. A webinar on Monday, February 9, from 1:00–2:30 pm will introduce attendees to AmeriCorps and the opportunity to apply for funding for programs that need 10 or more AmeriCorps members. In addition, we will look at the purpose and culture of AmeriCorps as well as the basic elements of successful grant proposals. To participate, a person will need access to the Internet and a phone line or voice-over-Internet protocol (VOIP). Registration is required in order to ensure enough connections for the session. To register, [use this link](#). Connection details will be sent the week prior to February 9. **CONTACT: Rochelle Runge at 287–8933 or rochelle.runge@maine.gov .**



***VolunteerFare* released.** The Maine Commission for Community Service released its newsletter, *VolunteerFare*, this week. *VolunteerFare* aims to provide volunteer program managers, sponsors, and funders with a forum for exchanging news, technical information, best practices, recommendations on useful resources and more. In this issue topics included tips for using VolunteerMaine.org, information about Martin Luther King Day, an article on Leadership, and The Governors Service Awards. To read the newsletter in its entirety or subscribe please [visit us online](#). **CONTACT: Rochelle Runge at 207.287.8933 or rochelle.runge@maine.gov**