

## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

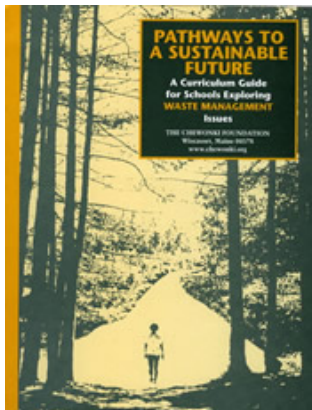
*Week ending October 23, 2009*

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.

### POLICY AND MANAGEMENT TEAM

**Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code update.** The Maine Legislature enacted the Uniform Building and Energy Code (PL 2007, Chapter 699 and amendments PL 2009, Chapter 261). The Department of Public Safety is staffing the technical board charged with adopting the new state code. Once adopted, the State Planning Office will develop a program of training and certification for it. Please view our [update and FAQ](#) regarding the new building code. **CONTACT: Sue Inches at 287-2989 or [sue.inches@maine.gov](mailto:sue.inches@maine.gov)**

### COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



#### **Chewonki Foundation open house celebrates sustainability.**

Bruce White of the Waste Management and Recycling Program represented SPO at an October 17 open house at Chewonki Foundation in Wiscasset to celebrate their receipt of the coveted Kresge Foundation Challenge Grant.

Almost two decades ago, the Chewonki supported the state's waste management and recycling education and outreach effort with "Pathways to a Sustainable Future," a waste management curriculum guide for schools. Recently, Chewonki embarked on a web-based update of the guide. **CONTACT: Bruce White at 287-8053 or [bruce.white@maine.gov](mailto:bruce.white@maine.gov)**

**Money Available for Recycling Outreach.** Time is running short but there's still a bit of time remaining for municipal and regional recycling programs to apply for funding to help promote their recycling programs. Limited funding is available through the Waste Management and Recycling Program at the State Planning Office. Communities and regional recycling programs are encouraged to apply for this financial assistance and to use the funds to further support or expand their current recycling outreach efforts. Matching grants of up to \$500 may be requested by the local programs, with the funds used to encourage recycling. The application process is easy but must be completed and submitted to the State Planning Office by October 30, 2009. To learn more about the matching grants and possible outreach ideas, contact the State Planning Office at 287-6077 or visit <http://www.maine.gov/spo/recycle/docs/letter.toolkit.fall.09.doc>.

For the application, go to:

<http://www.maine.gov/spo/recycle/docs/Toolkit.grant.application.fall09.doc> .

**CONTACT:** Jetta Antonakos at or (207) 287-9074 [Jetta.antonakos@maine.gov](mailto:Jetta.antonakos@maine.gov) .

## **MAINE COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE**



**Volunteers Today: Compassion. Action.** From the White House to the boardrooms of the top television networks, the value of volunteering has seen a surge of national attention this year. Locally, volunteering continues to be an important issue as evidenced by the record number of attendees at this year's Blaine House Conference on Volunteerism. In its 22<sup>nd</sup> year, this year's conference had 310

registrants and focused on current and applicable best practices for Maine's volunteers and managers of volunteers. **CONTACT:** Rochelle Runge at 287-8933 or [rochelle.runge@maine.gov](mailto:rochelle.runge@maine.gov)

**Monetary awards for Service Learning Projects available.** Time Warner Cable and the Maine Commission for Community Service are excited to offer Maine Schools and community programs, working with children (k-12), Service Learning Project Awards of \$1,000 or \$4,000 focused on STEM activities (science, technology, engineering, math). Projects should address a local community need while developing students' academic skills and provide the opportunity to reflect on civic responsibility and the impact of service. **CONTACT:** Rochelle Runge at 287-8933 or [rochelle.runge@maine.gov](mailto:rochelle.runge@maine.gov).



**“I Participate” campaign a success.** The Entertainment Industry Foundation (EIF), joined by The Corporation for National and Community Service, launched “I Participate” on October 19<sup>th</sup> . Nationally, ABC, CBS, FOX, and NBC will support the campaign by airing celebrity Public Service Announcements encouraging viewers to tune in when more than 60 network television programs will feature a volunteer or service related message in their story lines. Locally, statewide television and radio stations have pledged their support by agreeing to run the VolunteerMaine.org Public Service Announcement. Local television stations advocating volunteerism in Maine by promoting VolunteerMaine.org include: WABI-TV 5 (CBS-Bangor), WAGM-TV 8 (CBS-Presque Isle), WGME-TV 13 (CBS-Portland), WVII-TV 7 and WFVX-TV 22 (ABC/FOX-Bangor), and WMTW-TV 8 (ABC-Portland). VolunteerMaine.org is an online resource that promotes nearly one thousand statewide non-profits from Aroostook to York and thousands of volunteer opportunities across the state. **CONTACT: Rochelle Runge at 287-8933 or [rochelle.runge@maine.gov](mailto:rochelle.runge@maine.gov)**

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

**Heating oil prices up.** The Governor’s Office of Energy Independence and Security (OEIS) conducted it’s off season oil survey and has found that the current statewide average cash price for No. 2 heating oil to be at \$2.48 per gallon up 10 cents from last week. Within the OEIS sample, the lowest actual heating oil price of \$2.27 per gallon was found in the Southwestern region. The high-end price of \$2.70 per gallon was found in the Eastern region. The statewide kerosene price average is \$2.77 per gallon at this time. The statewide average for propane based on a using 600 gallon a year was 2.86 per gallon. At the time of this release the price of WTI crude oil, major driver of refined product prices, including heating oil was \$78.75. The next survey is scheduled for October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009. **CONTACT: Ian Burnes at 287-8927 or [ian.burnes@maine.gov](mailto:ian.burnes@maine.gov) .**