



## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

*Week ending November 13, 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

**BRED Committee favors Governor's Quality of Place bill.** On a 9-2 vote of those present, members of the Business Research and Economic Development Committee reported out LD 1389, the Governor's Quality of Place Bill, OPT as amended. The amendments streamline last session's proposed bill, which was carried forward to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session.

The bill establishes a Maine Quality of Council, composed of relevant state agency and private representatives, to guide, in consultation with regional economic development districts, the creation of regional quality of place investment strategies by those districts and state interagency coordination around those strategies. **CONTACT: Sue Inches at 287-2989 or [sue.inches@maine.gov](mailto:sue.inches@maine.gov)**

**SPO honors employees.** At this year's employee recognition events, SPO honored the hard work of its managers and staff. Among the 20 people recognized, SPO singled out Maryalice Crofton, Director of Maine Commission for Community Service, as Manager of the Year, and Amanda Rector, Economist, as Employee of Year. We congratulate and thank all of SPO's hardworking staff. **CONTACT: Linda LaPlante at 287-2456 or [Linda.c.laplante@maine.gov](mailto:Linda.c.laplante@maine.gov)**

### COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**Reusable bag campaign launched this week.** A coalition of business leaders, grocery

and retail associations, government officials, and environmental advocates announced a campaign to encourage increased reusable shopping bags. The campaign called *Got Your Bags, Maine?* is a public education and outreach effort aimed at encouraging Mainers to increase the usage of reusable bags for shopping and decrease the use of single-use paper and plastic bags. The goal is to get 1,000 participating retailers to reduce single-use checkout bags by 33% by 2012.



*Reusable Bag Campaign press conference (l:r) Curtis Picard – Maine Merchants Association, Martha Freeman – State Planning Office, Shelly Doak – Maine Grocers Association, Rep. Jane Knapp, and Matt Prindiville – Natural Resources Council of Maine*

The campaign is the result of the encouragement of Senator Nutting and Representative Knapp. PL 2009, Resolves 54 directed SPO to convene a work group to design and implement such a campaign. The working group that developed the campaign includes Maine Grocers Association, Maine Merchants Association, Hannaford Bros. Co., Rite-Aid, Wal-Mart, the Natural Resources Council of Maine, American Chemistry Council, the Maine Chamber of Commerce, representatives from the Maine State Planning Office and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. **CONTACT: George**

**MacDonald at 287-5759 or [george.macdonald@maine.gov](mailto:george.macdonald@maine.gov)**

**Maine Recycles Week celebrated this week.** Governor Baldacci proclaimed this week Maine Recycles Week and urged schools, businesses, and communities across the state to promote recycling and buy recycled. Maine Recycles Week is celebrated each year and culminates with America Recycles Day hosted by the National Recycling Coalition. On Saturday, organizations across the state will hold recycling events to increase awareness and participation in community recycling programs. The highlight of Maine Recycles Week is the [school poster contest](#). Poster entries are due on November 23, 2009. For more information: [Maine Recycles Week](#). **CONTACT: Bruce White at 287-8051 or [bruce.white@maine.gov](mailto:bruce.white@maine.gov)**

**Solid Waste Management Advisory Board meets.** The board designed to provide input to SPO on waste management policy and program issues met on October 26 to discuss

PL 2009, Chapter 412. Part of this law, directs SPO to review and assess Maine's solid waste management policy as it relates to state- and commercially-owned landfills. SPO asked the board as interested parties to offer their insights on whether the current statutory restriction on the expansion of commercial solid waste disposal facilities should be amended to allow Pine Tree Landfill in Norridgewock to expand. Board members noted that the Department of Environmental Protection would determine the public benefit of expanding the facility if the law change is enacted. It offered a number of factors to consider:

- There is precedent for expanding an existing commercial landfill
- Benefits to Maine generally from added disposal capacity
- Concern about the impact on fostering Maine's waste management hierarchy
- Benefits to Maine communities as a disposal option
- Concern about a law to benefit a single facility

The board also re-elected Greg Louder as its chair for 2010. **CONTACT: George MacDonald at 287-5759 or [george.macdonald@maine.gov](mailto:george.macdonald@maine.gov)**

**Jetta Antonakos leaves State Planning Office.** Jetta Antonakos, a member of the waste management and recycling program, will leave SPO on November 27, 2009 for a promotional opportunity in Washington State. Jetta, who has been with SPO for three years, developed and staffed the [Maine Recycles](#) promotional campaign. Under her guidance, the Office launched a media campaign, a recycling video competition, and an educational toolkit for use by local programs to promote recycling. We wish Jetta well in her new position. **CONTACT: George MacDonald at 287-5759 or [george.macdonald@maine.gov](mailto:george.macdonald@maine.gov)**

**Code officer newsletter launched.** The CEO program has published its first electronic newsletter which reached 600 code officials and local plumbing inspectors. Topics covered include an update on the new building code, outside training opportunities, and training for new code enforcement officers and local plumbing inspectors. Please visit <http://www.maine.gov/spo/ceo/newsletter/index.htm> to view the newsletter or to sign up to receive it. This will be published quarterly with the next issue due out in January. **CONTACT: Brianne Hasty at 287-8058 or [brianne.hasty@maine.gov](mailto:brianne.hasty@maine.gov)**

## **ECONOMICS AND DEMOGRAPHICS**

**Maine's Families and Living Arrangements report available.** SPO has compiled a report detailing the dramatic changes in Maine's households over the past few decades. These

changes have profound implications for the way Maine people interact, live, and solve problems together. They also present an opportunity to create public policies that encourage denser, more efficient land-use planning. You can view the full report here: <http://www.maine.gov/spo/economics/SDC/pubs/0911/Families%20and%20Households%20Livings%20Arrangements.pdf>. **CONTACT: Mike LeVert at 287-1479 or [michael.levert@maine.gov](mailto:michael.levert@maine.gov)**

**SPO launches a new data tool!** The Maine State Data Center at SPO has provided a new, on-line tool to make it easier to access economic and demographic data for Maine, including commonly requested data about population, demographics, housing, retail sales, and employment. This site will be continually updated as new data are released. Access the tool from this link: <http://209.40.203.211/>. **CONTACT: Thomas Merrill at 287-1478 or [Thomas.merrill@maine.gov](mailto:Thomas.merrill@maine.gov)**

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

**Heating oil prices rise.** The Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security's November 9, 2009, oil survey found the current statewide average cash price for No. 2 heating oil to be \$2.56 per gallon, unchanged from last week. At the time of this release the price of WTI crude oil, major driver of refined product prices, including heating oil was \$79.08. **CONTACT: Jennifer Puser at 287-6250 or [Jennifer.puser@maine.gov](mailto:Jennifer.puser@maine.gov)**

#### **LAND USE PROGRAM**

**Model wind ordinance presented to planners.** The Maine model wind energy facilities ordinance was the topic of a presentation by Land Use Team Senior Planner Phil Carey at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual AVCOG Planning Day. The event, which was held on November 5 in Auburn, was attended by approximately 150 citizens, planners and local officials, many of whom attended the afternoon session entitled "Regulation of Commercial Wind Power Projects." During that session, Carey joined James Cassida, Director of the DEP Division of Land Resource Regulation, and Land Use Attorney James N. Katsiaficas from the law firm of Perkins Thompson to answer questions about state and local regulation of large wind energy facilities. **CONTACT: Phil Carey at 287- 3860 or [phil.carey@maine.gov](mailto:phil.carey@maine.gov)**

#### **LAND FOR MAINE'S FUTURE PROGRAM**

**Conserved lands GIS data layer has been published!** After years of hard work, a geographic information system (GIS) data layer of Maine's public conserved lands has been updated and added to the state GIS library. Staff from multiple state agencies (departments of Conservation and Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, Land Use Regulation Commission, Maine Office of Geographic Information Systems, and SPO) made this project a reality as did numerous interns over the years. Data including location, acreage, type and purpose of land, whether there are easements or public access, and more are now updated and available in one place. The data layer is now available to all state GIS users and the public who can download the data from the MEGIS web site. The data are also available in a Google Earth® format. **CONTACT: Tim Glidden at 287-1487 or [tim.glidden@maine.gov](mailto:tim.glidden@maine.gov) or Janet Parker at 287-9981 or [janet.parker@maine.gov](mailto:janet.parker@maine.gov)**

### **MAINE COASTAL PROGRAM**

**Request for approval of routine coastal program changes.** In accordance with 15 C.F.R. §923.84, SPO is submitting a series of routine program changes to the federal National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (NOAA), for review and approval as enforceable policies of the Maine Coastal Program. Interested parties have until November 26, 2009, to submit comments to NOAA on whether the requested changes are routine program implementation. For more information: [Request for Approval of Routine Program Changes](#).

### **MAINE COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**2010 Learn and Serve "Summer of Service" grants announced.** The [Corporation for National and Community Service](#) has released a funding notice for its 2010 Learn and Serve America "Summer of Service" grants competition, implementing a new program authorized under the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act. This is an invitation to summer youth programs to be considered as a site in the Maine application. To determine whether your program could be included, visit our [web site](#). Response deadline is 5:00 pm, November 18, 2009. **CONTACT: Rochelle Runge at 287-8933 or [rochelle.runge@maine.gov](mailto:rochelle.runge@maine.gov)**

**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service grants available.** \$450 cash awards are available to nonprofit organizations, state and local government agencies, churches, schools, school districts, and institutions of higher education to assist in planning and

completing Martin Luther King community volunteer service projects. Volunteer service projects must be clearly focused on the legacy of Dr. King around service, nonviolence, or diversity. They should engage a broad segment of the community and promote a spirit of inclusive collaboration among young and old, business and nonprofits, school and community, working and unemployed, newcomers and long-time residents. For more information: [http://www.maineservicecommission.gov/mlk\\_maine/index2.php](http://www.maineservicecommission.gov/mlk_maine/index2.php).  
**CONTACT:** Rochelle Runge at 287-8933 or [rochelle.runge@maine.gov](mailto:rochelle.runge@maine.gov)