



## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

*Week ending November 6, 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.

### LAND USE PROGRAM

**Land for Maine's Future Program Contributes to a Conservation and Recreation Project in Town of Gray, Cumberland County.** The Land for Maine's Future Program, with assistance and contribution by the Town of Gray, and the ME Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks & Lands, and the Gray Community Endowment has completed the fee acquisition of 29± acres of forested uplands. This acquisition supports the long term goals of the community to provide and maintain wildlife habitat, natural open space, and public access to Libby Hill. The subject property will be managed by the Gray Community Endowment, a non-profit entity in partnership with the Town of Gray, subject to a project agreement, and providing an important recreational link with other contiguous, publicly conserved land. **CONTACT:** R. Collin Therrien at 287-5619 or [RCollin.Therrien@maine.gov](mailto:RCollin.Therrien@maine.gov) or Tim Glidden at [Tim.Glidden@maine.gov](mailto:Tim.Glidden@maine.gov) or 287-1487.

### ECONOMICS AND DEMOGRAPHICS

**Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission Meets.** The Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission (CEFC) convened on October 26 to revise its April 2009 economic forecast. The decline in the national and state economic outlook has begun to ease since the CEFC met in March. The fall forecast reflects a slowing of the sharp decline in national and state economic activity that began in the fall of 2008. The revised forecast reduces expectations of employment declines compared with the spring forecast, but three more quarters of employment loss are expected, with a

modest recovery beginning in mid-2010. Sharp declines in wages and salaries and proprietors' income during the first quarter of 2009 will result in a slight decline in personal income over the year, followed by a weak recovery through 2010. The growth in transfer payments (including unemployment insurance) during the second half of 2009 will offset losses in wage and salary income, resulting in a small positive change in personal income even while wages and salaries are falling. This table outlines the forecast's major indicators:

Calendar Years	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Wage &amp; Salary Employment (Annual Percentage Change)</b>					
CEFC Forecast 4/2009	-3.8	-1.6	1.4	2.2	2.0
CEFC Forecast 11/2009	-2.9	-1.2	1.2	2.2	2.0
<b>Personal Income (Annual Percentage Change)</b>					
CEFC Forecast 4/2009	1.0	1.2	2.8	4.0	4.7
CEFC Forecast 11/2009	-0.6	1.2	3.2	4.4	4.8
<b>CPI (Annual Percentage Change)</b>					
CEFC Forecast 4/2009	-1.4	1.7	2.3	2.1	2.0
CEFC Forecast 11/2009	-0.5	1.7	2.0	2.1	2.0

The Economics and Demographics Team provides staff support for the Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission (CEFC), an independent group of economists who forecast Maine's economy. To see the Commission's full report: [http://www.maine.gov/legis/ofpr/revenue\\_forecasting\\_committee/consensus\\_economic\\_forecast/nov2009\\_sum.pdf](http://www.maine.gov/legis/ofpr/revenue_forecasting_committee/consensus_economic_forecast/nov2009_sum.pdf). CONTACT: Mike LeVert at 287-1479 or [michael.levert@maine.gov](mailto:michael.levert@maine.gov)

**Maine State Planning Office Economics and Demographics newsletter released.** In this issue topics include economic forecasting, heating oil tracking, August retail sales, census highlights, and state and local government finances. To read this issue as well as past issues visit [our website](#). CONTACT: Mike LeVert at 287-1479 or [michael.levert@maine.gov](mailto:michael.levert@maine.gov) .

### **COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

**Newsletter of the Maine State Planning Office, Waste Management and Recycling Program released.** In this issue of Waste Bytes articles include MMA conference, Maine Recycles Week, Family Landfill, the Common Ground Fair, Waste-to-Energy Landfill, and Tune In to Get the Word Out. To read the full newsletter and see back issues visit us [online](#). CONTACT: Bruce White at 287-8053 or [bruce.white@maine.gov](mailto:bruce.white@maine.gov) .

## **COASTAL PROGRAM**

**Maine Coastal Waters Conference.** This week 280 coastal managers, legislators, scientists and citizens gathered at the Point Lookout conference center for the day long Maine Coastal Waters conference. The Maine Coastal Program was a primary partner on the conference committee and sponsor of the conference. The key topics of discussion included climate change impacts to the Gulf of Maine, impacts of sea level rise on our coastal communities, ocean energy in Maine, and community participation in the management and conservation of coastal ecosystems. The engaging keynote presenters included former Governor Angus King on ocean related energy and Dr. Susi Moser on climate change and communications for effective community engagement. In conclusion a summary of the day's outcomes were presented as next steps toward action that will engage community members, identify and build effective partnerships, and the challenges that may be faced in taking these steps. **CONTACT: Theresa Torrent-Ellis at 287.2351 or [theresa.torrent-ellis@maine.gov](mailto:theresa.torrent-ellis@maine.gov) .**

**Rockland's Journey's End Marina Recognized as Newest Clean Marina.** After several years of hard work and commitment, Journey's End Marina in Rockland is the Maine Clean Boatyards & Marinas Program's most recently designated Clean Marina. Journey's End staff member Greg Ricciardi says this accomplishment means, "We have honored the O'Hara family's commitment to make Journey's End Marina an environmentally responsible business." The purpose of the Maine Clean Boatyards & Marinas Program is to curb coastal pollution and to help sustain marine economies of coastal communities. In order to qualify as a Maine Clean Boatyard & Marina, Journey's End Marina had to demonstrate a high level of compliance or 'above compliance' in each of the five program areas: stormwater management, boat maintenance and repair, fueling activities, solid waste handling, boat pumpouts, and sewage disposal. Participation in the Maine Clean Boatyards & Marinas Program is voluntary; and participating facilities complete a self-assessment, work with assistance providers to make needed improvements, sign a pledge, and then invite a verification team to inspect the facility. The program is implemented by the Maine Marine Trade Association and agency partners with funding from the Maine Coastal Program. **CONTACT: Paula Thomson at 287-1482 or [paula.thomson@maine.gov](mailto:paula.thomson@maine.gov).**

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

**Heating Oil Prices Rise.** The Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security (OEIS) conducted its seasonal oil survey and has found that the current statewide average cash price for Number 2 heating oil is \$2.56 per gallon up 1 cent from last week. Within the OEIS sample, the lowest actual heating oil price of \$2.25 per gallon was found in the Southwestern region. The high-end price of \$2.85 per gallon was found in the Eastern region. The statewide kerosene price average is \$2.95 per gallon at this time. The statewide average for propane based on a use of 600 gallons a year was \$2.61 per gallon. At the time of this release the price of WTI crude oil, major driver of refined product prices, including heating oil was \$77.36. **CONTACT: Ian Burnes at 287-8927 or [ian.burnes@maine.gov](mailto:ian.burnes@maine.gov) .**