



WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Week ending May 8, 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.

DIRECTOR'S POLICY AND MANAGEMENT TEAM

SPO adopts rule governing landfill contract amendments. On May 1, 2009, the State Planning Office adopted Chapter 480, a rule to require the State Planning Office to accept public comments when certain changes are proposed to an operating services agreement between the office and its contracted operator of a state-owned solid waste disposal facility. The rule lays out the requirements for a public hearing on certain operating services agreement amendments. The rule has been reviewed by the Attorney General's Office and submitted to the Secretary of State for filing. The rule was initiated through a citizens' petition. It will become effective 5 days after it is accepted for filing by the Secretary of State. The State Planning Office's adopted rule, along with the public comments and our responses to those comments, is available on line at <http://www.maine.gov/spo/rightcolumn/sporules.htm>. **CONTACT: Jody Harris at 287-5424 or jody.harris@maine.gov .**

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY

Heating Oil Price Averages Dropping. The Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security (OEIS) has found that the current statewide average cash price for No. 2 heating oil to be at \$2.06 per gallon. 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 \$1.60 per gallon was found in the Southwestern region. The high-end price of \$2.35 per gallon was found in the Northern region. At

the time of this release the price of WTI crude oil, major driver of refined product prices, including heating oil was \$48.53. The statewide kerosene price average is \$2.51 per gallon at this time. The next survey is scheduled for May 11, 2009.

CONTACT: Ian Burnes at 287-8927 or ian.burnes@maine.gov .

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The Land Use Team welcomes MacGregor Stocco. MacGregor Stocco has been hired to fill the remaining empty position on the Land Use Team and will start on May 19th. Mac comes to SPO from KVCOG where he has been working as a community planner since January 2007. Mac brings a wide range of experience from rural to urban to regional planning. He has held planning positions with the New Jersey Pinelands Commission, Office of Housing and Economic Development, Harris County, Texas, and the Planning and Zoning Department of Orange County, New Jersey. As part of the Land Use Team, Mac will work on emerging issues in coastal planning such as adaptation to climate change and he will play an important role in the team's continuing efforts to help move Maine toward a more regional approach to land use planning. Please join me in welcoming Mac to SPO. **CONTCAT:** Elizabeth Hertz at 287-8061 or elizabeth.hertz@maine.gov .

The Maine Resource Recovery Association held its 16th Annual Spring Conference on May 4th and 5th. Staff from the Waste Management and Recycling Program at the State Planning Office attended this conference, which this year focused on the concept of sustainability, along with other sessions addressing the nuts and bolts issues of



transfer station and recycling center operations. There were 180 people in attendance. Featured guest speakers were: Jerry Powell, editor of Resource Recycling magazine, who addressed the crash in the recyclables market; Brenda Platt, with the Waste to Wealth & Sustainable Plastics Program at the Institute for Local Self Reliance; and James Bohlig of Casella Renewables. With representatives from Eliot to Aroostook County, and Oxford to Matinicus Island,

all enjoyed the chance to catch up with others and to recognize the achievements of many. **CONTACT:** Bruce A. White, 287-8053 or bruce.white@maine.gov.



Sam Morris honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award. Sam Morris, a Senior Planner with the Waste Management and Recycling Program at SPO, received this award from the Maine Resource Recovery Association (MRRA) at their 16th Annual Spring Conference. MRRA president, Ross Nason (at left in the photo), made the presentation. In 24 years of the MRRA, the Lifetime Achievement Award has

been presented only three times. In making the presentation, Ross referred to Sam as “Money Bags Morris” for his years of managing grants for Universal Waste and Solid Waste Reduction throughout the State. In assisting municipalities, many of which are MRRA members, Sam has traveled the State to advise facilities. Today recycling is available to more than 97% of the population and the SPO Program works with each of the respective communities. Ross also noted in his presentation, the role that Sam has played in spearheading composting initiatives on the municipal level in the State as well as in programs with MRRA. Previously to his current position, Sam was responsible for operations at two regional solid waste facilities in the Mid Coast area and served briefly at the former Maine Waste Management Agency. He was also recognized for his contributions in bringing together the latest update to the State’s Solid Waste Management and Recycling Plant. **CONTACT: Bruce A. White, 287-8053 or bruce.white@maine.gov.**

MAINE COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE



***VolunteerFare* released.** The Maine Commission for Community Service released its newsletter, *VolunteerFare*, this week. In this issue topics included the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, information about AmeriCorps Week, a history of the Civilian Conservation Corps, and training opportunities. *VolunteerFare* provides volunteer program managers, sponsors, and funders with a forum for exchanging news, technical information, best practices, recommendations on useful resources and more. To read the newsletter in its entirety or subscribe please [visit us online](#). **CONTACT: Rochelle Runge at 287-8933 or rochelle.runge@maine.gov.**