



WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

January 8, 2010

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

Maine Quality of Place Council report announced. The 2009 annual report was delivered to Governor Baldacci today on behalf of the Maine Quality of Place Council. The council's work this year focused on crafting and presenting to the Legislature's Committee on Business, Research, and Economic Development the Governor's quality of place bill (LD 1389). The report may be viewed on-line at: <http://www.maine.gov/spo/specialprojects/qualityofplace/reportsandrecommendations.htm>. The members of the council remain grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Maine and for the continuing support of the Governor for its mission and goals. **CONTACT:** Jody Harris at 287-5424 or jody.harris@maine.gov

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

Maine Compost School featured at Green Living Project event. The State Planning Office collaborates with the Maine Compost Team to provide training to people interested in or involved with medium and large-scale composting operations. This course is offered as a certificate program and trains individuals to be qualified compost site operators. The school was featured last night in Brunswick at the premiere of the National Geographic Adventure's Green Living Project. Other projects featured at the Green Living event include Chewonki School and the Maine Hut Trail system. The evening was a great success with well over 100 people in attendance. **CONTACT:** George MacDonald at 287-5759 or george.macdonald@maine.gov.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY

Heating Oil Prices Increasing. 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 No. 2 heating oil to be at \$2.67 per gallon, up seven cents from last week. Within the OEIS sample, the lowest actual heating oil price of \$2.48 per gallon was found in the Southwestern region. The highest price of \$2.90 per gallon was found in the Eastern region. The statewide kerosene price average is \$3.01 per gallon at this time. The statewide average for propane based on a use of 600 gallons a year was \$2.79 per gallon. At the time of this release the price of WTI crude oil, major driver of refined product prices, including heating oil was \$81.33. The next survey is scheduled for January 11th, 2010. **CONTACT: Jennifer Puser 287-6250 or Jennifer.puser@maine.gov .**

THE MAINE COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

Make it a Day ON Not a Day Off! January 18th is Martin Luther King Day. The Maine Commission for Community Service announced 16 recipients of an award competition designed to aide organizations in developing community volunteer service projects in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Help honor Dr. King's legacy of service by joining a project in your area. Visit VolunteerMaine.org to find a project in your community. **CONTACT: Rochelle Runge 287-8933 or Rochelle.runge@maine.gov .**