



WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

April 16, 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.

MAINE COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

MCCS is moving forward with the handoff of Learn and Serve America (LSA) programs from MDOE to MCCS. Under new federal regulations, state departments of education can now designate other organizations to manage these National Corporation for Community Service funds. Because MCCS manages many of the other NCCS funding streams, this is a natural home for these programs to land. Currently MDOE is managing two first year Service Learning sub-grantee sites, RSU's 67 in Lincoln and 34 in Old Town. When the current year ends on June 30th, MCCS will assume oversight responsibilities. Current efforts are aimed at making the transition as seamless as possible. MCCS is also pleased to note the generous donation of \$35,000 from Time Warner Cable that will support STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) Service Learning projects in Maine schools. These funds will supplement the existing Learn & Serve America funds and allow MCCS to offer a new round of initial applications for new Service Learning sites in the state and will also fund a set of smaller mini-grants aimed at engaging a new set of Maine teachers in Service Learning projects. **CONTACT: Michael Ashmore at 287-1484 or Michael.Ashmore@maine.gov .**

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Waste Bytes! released. Waste Bytes is a Newsletter of the Maine State Planning Office, Waste Management and Recycling Program. In this issue you will find information on the Annual Conference of the Maine Resource Recovery Association, cash awards,

making a difference in your community and the “Got Bags Maine?” program. Visit, <http://www.maine.gov/spo/recycle/docs/newsletter/AprtBytes10%20gm.pdf> to read the newsletter online. **CONTACT: Bruce White at 287-8053 or bruce.white@maine.gov.**

Earth Day’s Silver Anniversary this month! Join your neighbors in helping to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day on Thursday April 22nd. Make a pledge to reduce your impact on our planet. It’s easy to take a reusable bag with you when you go shopping. Do a better job of recycling household materials. Turn off unneeded lights. Plan your shopping trips to maximize the use of your vehicle. Plant a vegetable garden. Support local businesses. Build a compost pile and use the compost in your flower beds or vegetable garden. Use energy efficient light bulbs. **For more information:** <http://www.epa.gov/earthday/>. Think about how your activities impact the environment and adopt practices that will reduce that impact. **CONTACT: George MacDonald at 287.5759 or George.MacDonald@maine.gov .**

GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY

Mitigate Higher Heating Oil Prices on Tax Day. The Governor’s Office of Energy Independence and Security (OEIS) conducted its seasonal oil survey and found that the current statewide average cash price for No. 2 heating oil to be at \$2.75 per gallon, up four cents from last week. 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 \$2.45 per gallon was found in the Southwestern region. The highest price of \$2.97 per gallon was found in the Northern region. The statewide kerosene price average is \$3.11 per gallon at this time. The statewide average for propane based on a use of 600 gallons a year is \$2.76 per gallon. At the time of this release the price of WTI crude oil, major driver of refined product prices, including heating oil was \$83.73. **CONTACT: Jeffrey Marks at 287-8927 or Jeffrey.marks@maine.gov .**