



WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

April 30, 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

Quality of Place Council to meet. The Maine Quality of Place Council will meet on May 5, 2010 at the State Planning Office at 184 State Street in Augusta from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. **CONTACT:** Jody Harris at 287-5424 or jody.harris@maine.gov.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

CEO newsletter released. This issue of the training newsletter for municipal code enforcement officers (CEOs) provides an overview of the upcoming state building inspectors' conference, an update on SPO's rule-making for building code certification standards, a list of upcoming training opportunities, and more. You can view the newsletter at: <http://www.maine.gov/spo/ceo/newsletter/index.htm>. **CONTACT:** Brianne Hasty at 287-8058 or brianne.hasty@maine.gov

Maine Resource Recovery Association holds 17th Annual Spring Conference. The State Planning Office's waste management and recycling team sponsored and participated in the statewide conference in Rockport this week supporting the conference's theme, "Understanding Environmental and Economic Impacts." Over 240 attendees representing municipal solid waste programs, municipal officers and private sector businesses were present for the conference, speakers and exhibits.

Of SPO's team, George MacDonald presented awards as well participated in a panel discussion on the future of waste management and recycling. Sam Morris was involved in four sessions covering topics from disaster response to single-stream recycling. Lana Laplant-Ellis was a part of a panel that reviewed the reporting requirements of municipal solid waste activities. And Suzanne Duplissis was newly introduced to the attendees. Rhonda Carl and Bruce White staffed the Office's booth. The Maine Resource Recovery Association, an affiliate of the Maine Municipal Association, is a member-based association of solid waste professionals. **CONTACT: Bruce White at (207) 287-8053 or bruce.white@maine.gov .**

Spring household hazardous waste events. A number of municipalities and organizations host collection events this time of year for household hazardous waste. These events collect electronics, old paints, chemicals, and even expired prescription medicines to remove them from the regular trash stream and dispose of them properly. Two hundred and twenty seven (227) municipalities now offer collection programs to divert and safely manage household hazardous waste; many started in 2003-2005 with SPO grants funds. To learn about events in the Capitol area, visit the waste management [web site](#). To learn about events in your town, contact the town office. **CONTACT: Sam Morris at 287-8054 or sam.morris@maine.gov**

MAINE COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

***VolunteerFare* Newsletter released.** In this issue, see pictures and read all about the Governor's Volunteer Service Awards, learn about new training, and discover the 22 essential practices of volunteer management. Read the entire newsletter online at: <http://www.maineservicecommission.gov/news/maine-volunteer-fare/> **CONTACT: Rochelle Runge at 287-8933 or Rochelle.runge@maine.gov .**

AmeriCorps Week is May 8th-15th. The fourth annual AmeriCorps Week provides the perfect opportunity for AmeriCorps members, alums, grantees, program partners, and friends to shine a spotlight on AmeriCorps and to motivate more Americans to serve. The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act has set a bold vision of expansion, impact, and innovation for AmeriCorps, and momentum for national service has never been stronger. Join AmeriCops members in your area as they celebrate volunteer service and talk about the impact of AmeriCorps in Maine. Events during the week range from informational tables at local farmers markets, to trail clean ups and building projects. Click on the link to find out how to get involved in your community! [More information](#). **CONTACT: Rochelle Runge at 287-8933 or Rochelle.runge@maine.gov .**

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY

Home Heating Oil Price Down Slightly. The Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security's oil survey found the current statewide average cash price for No. 2 heating oil to be \$2.75 per gallon, down by one cent from last week. Within the Office's sample, the lowest actual heating oil price of \$2.47 per gallon was found in the Western region. The highest price of \$2.98 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 \$2.70 per gallon. At the time of this release the price of WTI crude oil, major driver of refined product prices, including heating oil was \$84.31. **CONTACT: Jeffrey Marks at 287-8927 or Jeffrey.marks@maine.gov**