



WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

March 4, 2011

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.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Recycling grants offered to communities. SPO's Waste Management & Recycling Program is offering grants to assist with the implementation or expansion of municipal or publicly supported recycling and composting efforts. \$300,000 is available, with individual grant awards capped at \$25,000. This competitive grant program is designed to help Maine communities increase their ability to recycle more materials in a way that emphasizes efficiency and cost effectiveness. Priority projects include increasing the collection of corrugated cardboard and new or expanded leaf and yard debris composting operations. In accordance with state law, preference will be given to regional programs. The application and process is available at the [State Planning Office's website](#).

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Waste Bytes Again! The [March Newsletter](#) of the State Planning Office Waste Management and Recycling Program is now available. This month's edition includes articles on state recycling grants, recycling in multi-unit buildings, your role in recycling at home, recycling tips, and recycling paperboard packaging.

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LAND USE PLANNING

SPO initiates rule-making of Maine's Comprehensive Planning Review Criteria Rule (07-105 CMR Chapter 208). The State Planning Office has filed Chapter 208 amendments with the Secretary of State's Office and a public hearing has been scheduled for March 31st. The intent of the amendments is to eliminate duplication and reduce the time and financial commitment required for municipalities to develop a comprehensive plan that is consistent with the Growth Management Act (30-A MRSA §4312 et seq.). Please see the [rule-making announcement](#) for more information.

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LAND FOR MAINE'S FUTURE

Land for Maine Future's first archaeological site. A millennia old, seasonal, fishing village located at Dresden Falls is the first significant, undeveloped, archaeological site to be protected with LMF support. Here Native Americans fished for striped bass and sturgeon between 9,000 and 4,500 years ago. The 14-acre site, the largest known archaeological site of this time period in Maine, preserves refuse pits, fire hearths, and other features with burned animal bone and charcoal that will help archaeologists understand life in central and southern Maine in the millennia after the ice age. LMF worked in partnership with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Archaeological Conservancy and Friends of Merrymeeting bay on the project. LMF was established to help secure the future economic and social well being of the citizens of Maine by maintaining the quality and availability of productive lands and natural areas including working farms and forests, hunting, fishing, and conservation lands, wildlife habitat, and places with vital ecological functions or scenic beauty. In 2007, the legislature authorized the LMF Board to consider the protection of significant, undeveloped, archaeological sites.

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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY

Heating Oil Makes Biggest Price Jump of the Season. The Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security (OEIS) conducted its weekly heating oil survey on Monday, February 28, 2011 and found that the current statewide average cash price for No. 2 heating oil to be at **\$3.52 per gallon**, a fifteen cent increase from last week and the

largest of the heating season. The statewide kerosene price average is \$3.92 per gallon at this time. The statewide average for propane *based on a use of 925 gallons a year* is \$2.95 per gallon. On February 28, the price of WTI crude oil, a major driver of refined petroleum product prices, including heating oil was \$97.40.

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