



Saving energy for Maine

Program of the Maine Public Utilities Commission

For Immediate Release

Maine's Largest Ski Resorts Go Green

Improvements Expected to Save \$88,804 in Energy Costs Annually

Augusta, Maine (March 9, 2007) – Ski conditions are at their peak right now, which is great news for all of Maine's ski areas. But snowmaking can consume large amounts of electricity. Maine two largest ski resorts, Sunday River and Sugarloaf USA, expect to save thousands of dollars from energy efficient improvements they have made to snowmaking mechanisms, which will drastically lower costs while benefiting the environment.

Both resorts worked with Efficiency Maine, a program of the Maine Public Utilities Commission (PUC), for assistance in making the changes, which will save the resorts approximately 392,232 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity combined, or \$88,804 per year. The upgrades also earned the ski resorts \$63,135 in cash incentives from Efficiency Maine for certain qualifying equipment purchases, which will help defray project costs and reduce the payback period for the improvements.

New snow guns will benefit the environment by keeping 255 tons of carbon dioxide out of the earth's atmosphere, which is the equivalent of taking 50 cars off the road. Carbon dioxide is the most prevalent greenhouse gas released into the atmosphere when power plants generate electricity, contributing to global warming.

-MORE-

“Ski resorts are so dependent on weather that we are inherently tuned in to the environment,” stated Bill Brown, snowmaking and energy advisor. “We watch the developments in snowmaking technology, and upgrade our snow guns when it makes sense technically and financially. Upgrading with assistance from Efficiency Maine was not only cost effective, but good for the environment.”

Kurt Adams, chairman of the Maine PUC, encourages Maine businesses of all sizes to contact Efficiency Maine for free advice on how to use electricity more efficiently. “Our mission is to help Maine businesses and residents reduce energy costs, and improve Maine’s environment. With nearly 1,000 companies on board to date, the program is having a positive impact,” stated Adams.

In certain cases, cash incentives up to \$100,000 are available through Efficiency Maine for qualifying equipment purchases. More information about the program, call toll-free 1-866-376-2463 or visit the website at www.energymaine.com.

###