

Maine Public Utilities Commission

NEWS RELEASE

GOVERNOR BALDACCI TO AWARD IPOD SHUFFLES AND SOLAR CHARGERS IN ENERGY TIPS CONTEST

Sept. 27, 2007

October is Energy Awareness Month and to kick it off Governor John Baldacci is once again calling on Maine's school children to be leaders in the state's efforts to conserve energy.

The Governor, Maine's Office of Energy Independence and Security, and the Maine Public Utilities Commission's Efficiency Maine program are sponsoring the Fifth Annual Energy Saving Contest for students in the 4th, 5th, and 6th grades.

Governor Baldacci encourages students to submit one or two tips on how to save energy in their homes or schools. He will present the winners with an IPOD Shuffle and solar-powered charger at a special award ceremony in December.

"We want this contest to inspire students to learn more about saving energy in their homes and schools, and how simple changes can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions," the Governor said. "It also gives them an opportunity to discuss these issues with their friends and families."

"Today's children will be living with the consequences of energy decisions we make now - and so will their grandchildren," the Governor added. "The earlier we get our students focused on the issues and what they can do, the better the outcome will be for Maine and the world."

Winning suggestions in prior contests have ranged from "Use sensor lights in schools to save money," from Brian Allen, a 4th grader from Hall-Dale Elementary School in Hallowell, to "Buying a refrigerator? Make sure the label says ENERGY STAR," from Gino Hem, a 6th grader from Kingfield Elementary School.

To help students come up with ideas for the contest and to learn about the "energy hogs" found in most homes, they can visit <http://www.energyhog.org/childrens.htm>. The contest will run through the month, and entries should be submitted by Wednesday, October 31st to:

Joy Adamson
Maine Public Utilities Commission's Efficiency Maine Educational Program Manager,
8 State House Station,
Augusta, ME 04333-0018.

Entries should include the student's name, the school's name, school address, teacher and grade level. There are two entry categories: 1) Tips For Saving Energy In Your Home and 2) Tips for Saving Energy at Your School.

Winners will be chosen on November 16. The Governor will present the awards in December.

Efficiency Maine is a statewide program of the MPUC that promotes more efficient use of electricity, helping Maine businesses and residents reduce energy costs, and improving Maine's environment. For further information on the contest, contact Joy Adamson at (207) 287-8350 or at joy.adamson@maine.gov.