

Maine Public Utilities Commission

NEWS RELEASE

Maine Public Utilities Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor Meets and Approves of Maine's Future Energy Users

AUGUSTA, Maine - Maine's Governor John Baldacci today came face to face with his some of his State's future energy users and liked what he saw.

The Governor, along with Maine Public Utilities Commissioner Vendean Vafiades, met the six winners of the fifth annual Energy Savings Tip Contest for fourth to sixth graders in his office at the State House and presented them with i-pods and solar powered chargers as prizes.

The contest is a joint venture between Efficiency Maine, a program of the Maine Public Utilities Commission, and the Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security.

Governor Baldacci said he was very impressed with the level of tips and the students understanding that everyone had to both conserve energy and use alternative energy sources.

"Energy conservation and greenhouse gas emissions are issues that have implications for generations to come and I am really happy to see that these six young men and women have taken a leadership role in trying to address them," said Governor Baldacci.

The Governor also thanked Efficiency Maine for its continued efforts to educate Maine students on the importance of energy conservation.

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“Today’s children will be living with the consequences of energy decisions we now make and so will their grandchildren. 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.” he said.

Commissioner Vafiades said that last year more than 7,683 4th - 12th graders participated in Efficiency Maine’s School Energy Education Program, which provides support for energy education programs in Maine schools.

“Our Energy Savings Contest is an important piece of a broad effort to get Maine’s school children to focus on energy issues and what they can do to promote energy efficiency,” she said.

This year’s prize-winning tips that ranged from unplugging chargers when not in use, to insulating attics were chosen from more than 500 entries received from throughout the State.

The winners of the fifth annual Energy Savings Tip Contest were:

4th grade: Home

Unplug chargers when not using them. Tiffany Mills, Gilbert Elementary School
Augusta.

4th grade: School

When we build buildings, we can use energy efficient windows and heating systems, insulation, roofing materials and lighting. Erica Turmel, Hermon Elementary,
Hermon.

5th grade: Home

Un-insulated attics can be Energy Hogs: So, ask your parents to place some insulation on your attic floor. Reed Bridge-Koenigsberg, Crooked River Elementary School,
Casco.

5th grade: School

Don’t use lights when it is sunny because the sun will light the room. Josie Ford, Bangor Christian School.

6th grade: Home

You could dry laundry outside on a clothesline rather than using a clothes dryer and thereby save electricity. Aurora Sullivan, Leonard Middle School, Old Town.

6th grade: School

Take school bus to school if you can, then less people will use gas. Danielle Garry, York Middle School, York.

Efficiency Maine is a statewide effort to promote the more efficient use of electricity, help Maine residents and businesses reduce electricity costs and improve Maine’s environment.

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For more information, visit the PUC's Efficiency Maine website at www.energymaine.com or call 1-866-ESMAINE.

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The Public Utilities Commission is committed to ensuring that consumers have access to safe and reliable service for public utilities and that the rates for these utilities are just and reasonable. PUC programs include Maine Enhanced 911 Service, Dig Safe, and Efficiency Maine.

To arrange an interview with Chairman Adams, Commissioner Reishus, or Commissioner Vafiades, please contact Nicole Clegg at 207.287.8519 or by e-mail at nicole.clegg@maine.gov.