



Saving energy for Maine

Program of the Maine Public Utilities Commission

*For Immediate Release*

## **Maine PUC Recognizes SAD 17 for Energy Efficiency**

*School System Will Save an Estimated \$116,800 Annually*

Augusta, Maine (February 27, 2007) – School Administrative District 17 in Oxford will be recognized by the Maine Public Utilities Commission at 6 p.m. tonight for completing 8 lighting projects that will significantly reduce electricity usage and costs. SAD 17 partnered with the PUC’s Efficiency Maine Program for assistance in making the changes, which will save an estimated 987,389 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity, or \$132,956 per year. The upgrades also earned the school district \$169,185 in cash incentives from Efficiency Maine for certain equipment purchases, which will help defray projects costs and help SAD 17 reduce the payback period.

The lighting upgrades will benefit the environment too, by keeping 629 tons of carbon dioxide out of the earth’s atmosphere, which is the equivalent of taking 109 cars off the road. Carbon dioxide is one of the greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere when power plants generate electricity, contributing to global warming.

“As school administrators, it’s our responsibility to do all we can to make the most of tax dollars,” said Superintendent Mark Eastman. “Working with the energy experts at Efficiency Maine allowed us to take full advantage of certain program benefits. We can also feel good about doing our part to be environmentally responsible. “

Kurt Adams, chairman of the PUC, and Efficiency Maine Program Director David Kyle will lead the presentation tonight at 6 pm. during an open house at the new Paris Elementary School.

Efficiency Maine is a statewide program to promote the more efficient use of electricity, help Maine businesses and residents reduce energy costs, and improve Maine's environment. Free advice is available to Maine businesses of all sizes, and cash incentives up to \$100,000 are available for certain equipment purchases.

More information about the program, is available by calling toll-free 1-866-376-2463 or on the website at [www.energymaine.com](http://www.energymaine.com).

###