



A Program of the Maine Public Utilities Commission

Press Release

Governor Presents Environmentally Friendly Prizes to Tipsters

December 10, 2008

AUGUSTA, Maine – It was a case of tic for tac today when Maine's Governor John Baldacci this afternoon met the winners of Efficiency Maine's sixth Annual Energy Savings Tip Contest for fourth to sixth graders in his office at the State House.

The winners, who came from throughout the State, gave the Governor their tips for saving energy in schools and homes and in return the Governor, along with Maine Public Utilities Commissioner Sharon Reishus 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.

This year's prize-winning tips ranged from planting trees outside school windows to asking the school janitor to install thermostats in classrooms.

The Governor said the winning tips highlighted the fact that energy conservation need not be expensive or elaborate.

"The winning tips are simple but yet very effective things we can all do in our homes and schools to save energy and you will be happy to note that a major

component of the prizes being given today incorporates natural energy sources,” he said.

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

Commissioner Reishus said that last fiscal year, more than 10,000 4th – 12th graders participated in energy education presentations and workshops provided by Efficiency Maine’s School Energy Education Program, which provides support for energy education programs in Maine schools.

“The Energy Savings Tips Contest is a part of a broad effort to get Maine’s school children to focus on energy issues and what they can do to promote energy efficiency both at their schools and in their homes.” she said.

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

- 4th Grade. School tip: Olivia Verrill, Manchester School, Windham. “Plant trees outside hot windows. In a few years there will be shade and nice breezes instead of the sun’s hot, baking heat.”
- 4th Grade Home tip: Alexander Raest, Madawaska Elementary School, Madawaska. “Use a low flow showerhead.”
- 5th Grade. School Tip: Samantha Richard, George E. Jack Elementary, Standish. “Ask if the janitors could install thermostats that you can program so that the temperature can be turned down at night and on weekends when nobody is in the building.”
- 5th Grade. Home Tip: Jake Patrick, Paris Elementary School, South Paris. “You could use a toaster over instead of a normal oven to save energy.”
- 6th Grade. School Tip: Megan Seward, Presque Isle Middle School, Presque Isle. “Be a fan of windmills.”
- 6th Grade. Home Tip: Matt Buck, Clinton Elementary School, Clinton. “Don’t use an AC. Use a fan.”

reasonable. MPUC programs include Maine Enhanced 911 Service, Dig Safe, and Efficiency Maine.

To arrange an interview with Chairman Reishus, Commissioner Vendean Vafiades or Commissioner Jack Cashman, please contact Fred Bever at 207.287.6141 or by e-mail at fred.bever@maine.gov. The Commission's website, www.maine.gov/mpuc may be accessed through the Maine School and Library Network at all public libraries in Maine.