



Saving energy for Maine

Program of the Maine Public Utilities Commission

For Immediate Release

UMaine Black Bears Go....Green

*PUC Recognizes UMaine for Energy-Efficiency,
Campus-Wide Upgrades Will Save an Estimated \$71,000 Annually*

Augusta, Maine (February 23, 2007) – The University of Maine campus is offering an even brighter atmosphere these days for both athletics and academics. Across the campus, classrooms and athletic facilities ranging from Alfond Arena to Alumni Hall are reflecting the benefits of energy efficiency.

To date, campus officials have completed lighting renovation projects in 14 buildings, efforts that will save the college an estimated \$71,000 per year in electricity costs and offer valuable benefits for the environment.

The university worked with Efficiency Maine, a program of the Maine Public Utilities Commission (PUC), to identify energy-saving opportunities and install qualifying equipment. Today, PUC chairman Kurt Adams presented UMaine President Robert Kennedy and the facilities staff with a cash incentive of \$50,000 for the improvements. A second cash incentive of \$8,400 will soon be on the way.

Efficiency Maine offers free advice and cash incentives to Maine businesses of all sizes for using electricity more efficiently. The incentives help offset costs and reduce the payback period for the investment.

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The changes at UMaine will reduce the University's usage of electricity by more than 471,810 kWh per year, which will help to avert the production of 306 tons of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, the equivalent to taking fifty-three cars off the road. Greenhouse gases are released into the atmosphere when power plants generate electricity, contributing to global warming and carbon pollution.

“At a public university, it's important to save every dollar we can. Working with Efficiency Maine enabled us to make the desired improvements at a lower cost. More importantly, the lighting improvements are in line with our overall goal of being environmentally responsible,” stated Janet Waldron, vice president for finance and administration.

The last home game of the men's hockey team this Saturday will be “Efficiency Maine” night at Alfond. The team has been practicing and competing under new energy efficient technology which produces a better quality of light using lower wattage. Activities and giveaways will include compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) to a lucky row of spectators.

Efficiency Maine is a statewide program designed to promote the more efficient use of electricity, help Maine businesses and residents reduce energy costs, and improve Maine's environment. To date, more than 980 Maine businesses and organizations have participated in the program, which is funded by electricity consumers and administered by the Maine Public Utilities Commission. More information about Efficiency Maine is available by calling toll-free, 1-866-376-2463 or online at www.energymaine.com.

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