

Maine Public Utilities Commission

Executive Summary **Efficiency Maine Program** Results for FY 2008

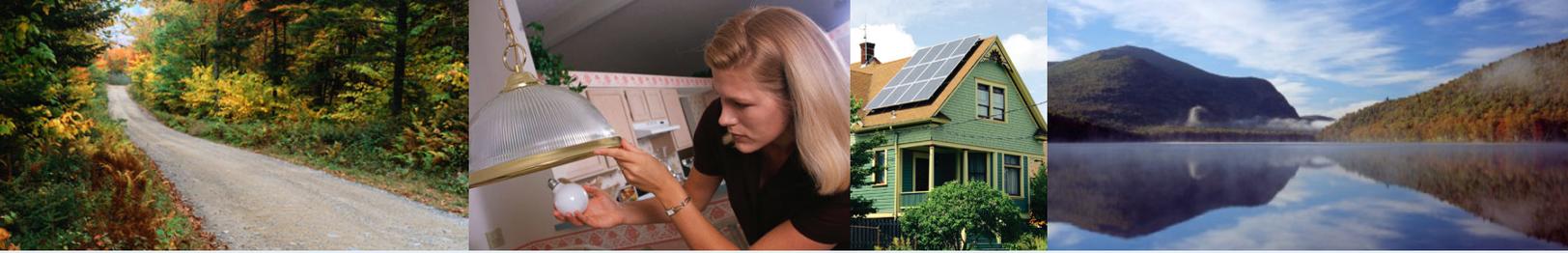


Business Programs • Residential Programs • Low Income Programs • Education and Training • State Energy Programs • Collaborative Initiatives



Leading the Way to a Brighter Future

A program of the Maine Public Utilities Commission

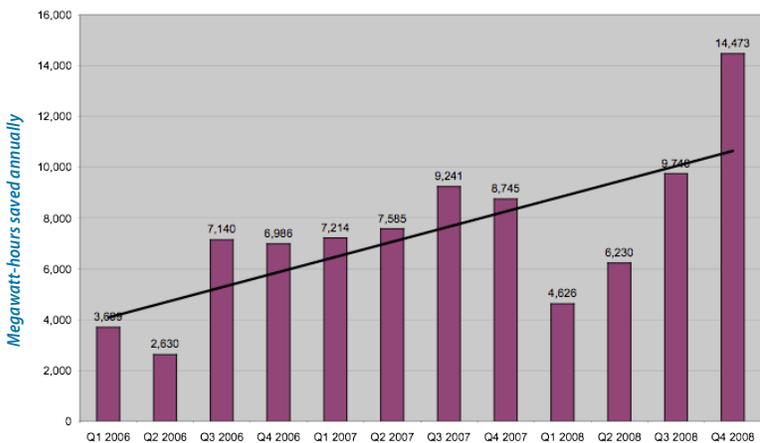


Introduction

Efficiency Maine's Business and Residential programs exceeded all of their energy savings goals in the 2008 program year. In addition, the program dramatically increased the presence, visibility and selection of compact fluorescent (CFL) lighting products in Maine retail establishments. Inquiries at our call center also increased markedly, as more and more Maine residents, schools, businesses and nonprofits sought our advice and financial assistance to make efficiency improvements. Attendance increased in our training and education programs as well, and we expanded our course menu and our geographic reach to meet this demand.

Business Programs

The Efficiency Maine Business programs started modestly in 2003 and have grown to serve the business community, as well as nonprofit organizations, public and private schools, colleges and universities, municipalities, farms, water and wastewater facilities.



Note: savings shown above are monthly and not cumulative. A megawatt hour is one million watts/ hour unit of measure.

Highlights:

- **957 projects** were completed by 703 program participants
- Electrical energy audit requests increased 18%
- More than **\$1.1 million** in incentives were applied for by schools for electrical-efficiency improvements
- Nearly **3,000 customers contacted** the call center
- Efficiency Maine participated in **73 business-related events**
- **\$720,000 was awarded to eight High Performance Schools** for energy-efficient new construction
- **The 38 schools participating** in the High Performance Schools program— from Ashland to Buxton, Hiram to North Haven—realized a savings of more than **\$5,000,000**

Residential Programs

These programs are designed to provide incentives for more energy-efficient product options, to encourage research and development, and to introduce new technologies for economic and environmental benefits.

Highlights:

- **1,144,000 CFLs** were purchased in Maine as a result of program efforts
- **8,400 energy-efficient fixtures** were purchased and installed in Maine homes
- Maine initiated the **nation's first CFL recycling program**, cited as "Best Practice" by the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE)
- Administration and funding were provided for the **Maine Home Performance** program, a fee-based energy audit training and certification program focused on measuring efficiency results from work performed
- Efficiency Maine participated in trade shows, energy fairs, after-hours events, civic affairs, and governmental events from Fort Kent to Kittery
- **Research and development** of new technologies, such as Light Emitting Diodes (LED), were conducted
- The **Residential New Construction program** base-line study was completed and had a major influence on passage of the Building and Energy Codes legislation
- The **Carbon Free Homes** website was created to advise Maine consumers in reducing residential carbon emissions and offering carbon reduction strategies
- Efficiency Maine supported the **Maine Partners for Cool Communities** grassroots community efforts to promote energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions

Low-Income Programs

Efficiency Maine works closely with Maine Housing to deliver programs and benefits to low-income families in Maine.

Highlights:

- 29 service agencies throughout Maine partnered with Efficiency Maine to assist **2,902 households**
- **38,521 CFLs** were directly installed in income eligible homes
- **2,125 refrigerators and 107 freezers** were changed out for energy-efficient models
- **96,944 CFLs** were mailed to 12,118 low-income eligible homes
- **\$2.6 million** in lifetime economic value through the reduction of kilowatt hours was realized
- **8,000 CFLs** were provided to homes through the Operation Keep Me Warm program



Education and Training

The Efficiency Maine Education and Training programs offer long-term benefits to the businesses, municipalities, institutions, and organizations throughout Maine. We offer a broad range of energy-efficiency technology updates and certifications. We also bring an energy curriculum into our schools.

Highlights:

- Building Operator Certification (a national certification program) was delivered to **82 participants**, 28% of whom are responsible for K-12 facility management. Lifetime economic value of **\$5 million in avoided energy costs**
- Courses were offered in Auburn, Augusta, Bangor, Brewer, Calais, Old Town, Orono, Portland, Presque Isle, Houlton, and Sanford
- Maine Energy Education Program (MEEP) had **8,648 students** participate (4th-12th grade)
- **Maine Energy Education Curriculum** was created in collaboration with the Maine Science and Technology Foundation, introduced to grades 4-8, aligned with Maine Learning Results
- **244 professionals** attended advanced energy-efficiency classes
- Additional energy-efficiency classes were offered in Commercial Energy Auditing, Lighting, Optimizing HVAC, Wastewater Economies, and others.
- Solar Installer classes were filled to capacity in all locations
- **Energy Tips contest** was coordinated with OEIS with prizes awarded by the Governor

State Energy Program Highlights

The former state energy program now resides within the MPUC's Efficiency Maine Program. The program administrator manages existing federal grants that allow several fuel-neutral program initiatives, and provide financial availability for loan funds.

Highlights:

- **\$250,113** was approved in cooperation with FAME, resulting in 163,069 kWh saved
- Loans helped purchase **22 auxiliary power units** (each unit saves a trucker approximately \$12,000 in reduced fuel consumption)
- **226 small business energy audits** were performed
- Low-interest geothermal loans were made available
- A small wind working group was formed to stimulate wind development
- **A wind anemometer loan program** was initiated in cooperation with UMO
- The biofuels website was established in cooperation with the Maine Energy Investment Corporation
- A greenhouse gas survey was conducted in cooperation with MDEP providing **nine \$1,400 grants** to schools
- A federal DOE grant funded a "High Performance Campus" project for Maine: 50 audits were requested
- Ten Voluntary Renewable Resources **grants totaling \$362,889**, were awarded for projects in Norway, Lincoln, Presque Isle, Kittery, E. Machias, Portland, Gray-New Gloucester, Yarmouth, Kennebunk, and Vinalhaven

Solar Incentives

The \$500,000 solar thermal and photovoltaic program funds approved by the legislature are administered through the MPUC and Efficiency Maine. In 2009, a minimum of 20% of the fund will be directed toward rebates for wind technology.

Highlights:

- Rebate reservations increased from about 15 per month in January to 50 per month in June
- **398 solar thermal rebates** were approved
- Commercial rebates (up to \$10,500) were added to the program
- **34 photovoltaic rebates** were approved
- Current reservations now account for most of the 2009 program allocation
- **200 solar installers were trained** and an additional 175 installers are currently registered for upcoming certification classes

Collaborative initiatives

Efficiency Maine actively collaborates with other agencies and organizations to increase its operating efficiency and increase awareness of the services offered. Efficiency Maine worked conjointly on the initiatives listed below and many more.

Highlights:

- Served on the planning committee for the **Governor's Energy Summit** with OEIS, MSHA, DEP, SPO, NRCM, the Governor's office, and Maine State Chamber
- Worked with **Maine Housing and OEIS** on weatherization program design
- Served on the **Governor's Pre-Emergency Energy Task Force**
- Supported the **Maine Partners for Cool Communities** grassroots efforts in 50 Maine communities and served on their Advisory Board
- Provided Efficiency Maine Program introduction and training to the **Small Business Development Counselors** throughout Maine
- Worked closely with **Bureau of General Services** and the **Bureau of Purchases** in improving energy-efficiency practices
- Coordinated training for **DECD Business Development Specialists**
- Gave keynote address at the **Governor's Carbon Challenge** conference
- Actively engaged **University of Maine** system in an anemometer siting program
- Worked with **Maine Technology Institute** in coordinating the redistribution of the Voluntary Renewable Resources Fund
- Actively engaged with **FAME** in support of energy-related loan fund management and program administration
- Worked with the **Maine Association of Conservation Districts** in administering audits and programs
- Participated in regional energy initiatives such as **Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships** (NEEP) and the **Consortium for Energy Efficiency** (CEE)



Summary

When the right energy-efficiency programs are targeted strategically and adapted quickly to changing circumstances, the results can mean dramatic cost savings for consumers and energy savings for the state of Maine. The FY 2008 results demonstrate the favorable effects of these programs.

In FY 2009, Maine can expect to see continued value from its energy-efficiency programs, as it continues to meet the increasing demands of the consumers and organizations eager to reduce electricity-related expenses.

The interest in current programming is overwhelming—good news for the people of Maine and the state's natural environment. In 2009, Efficiency Maine will maintain its sharp focus on energy-efficiency programs that deliver measurable results. Training and speaking engagements will be an important part of increasing energy-efficiency awareness. To this end, Efficiency Maine will continue to provide services that are relevant, sustainable and good for Maine citizens and the environment.



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Efficiency Maine is a statewide effort to promote the more efficient use of electricity, help Maine residents and businesses reduce energy costs, and improve Maine's environment. Efficiency Maine is funded by electricity consumers and administered by the Maine Public Utilities Commission.