

Efficiency Maine Trust **Triennial Plan & Stakeholder Input Factsheet**

The Efficiency Maine Trust is a new, independent public organization whose role is to consolidate, plan for, and administer Maine's energy efficiency programs. The law requires that the Trust create a detailed triennial plan consistent with new long-term state goals, including: weatherize all Maine homes and half of Maine businesses by 2030, and cut 30% of electricity use and 20% of heating fuels by 2020. The plan must be approved by the Public Utilities Commission, and include input from the Legislature, stakeholders, and the public. **We encourage all energy efficiency advocates in Maine to provide constructive comments about the plan *this month*, and give it strong support so that we can improve and expand Maine's efficiency efforts.**

NRCM has been closely involved in the formation of the Trust and has advocated for aggressive goals, careful planning, quality programs, and adequate resources—**the status quo on efficiency in Maine won't be enough, and we need your help to make change happen!**

The Trust has produced a "strawman" plan to facilitate public input, available at: http://efficiencymainetrust.org/docs/100104_Strawman.pdf. **We encourage stakeholders and the public to give comments to the Trust, whether you are a business that has completed an efficiency project, an efficiency-related company, or an interested citizen who supports additional energy efficiency. Comments can be made in writing, or at a series of public meetings scheduled in January.**

The following are some key facts and general points that may be helpful:

- Energy efficiency is the largest and most affordable energy resource that we have in Maine, and it is still largely untapped. This is a specific plan to help Maine residents and businesses tap Maine's cost-effective energy efficiency potential, save hundreds of millions of dollars, and create jobs for Maine people.
- Maine needs and deserves a comprehensive energy efficiency plan that also has the *resources* needed to implement the plan and achieve its goals.
- This strawman plan would save two million gallons of heating fuel in just the first three years of a residential weatherization program alone—not only is that \$6 million we can keep in the Maine economy instead of exporting those dollars for fuel, but those weatherization jobs will continue to generate savings for Maine people year after year for a decade or more.
- In the last five years, Efficiency Maine has leveraged \$64 million in program funds for \$67 million in private funds and created total lifetime savings of over \$390 million. In 2008, the Business Program alone helped 700 businesses save \$50 million. This is success we can build on.

- Maine is dangerously dependent on imported oil and natural gas, with more than 80% of our homes heated with oil and 27% of our power from natural gas. We must transform our energy system to increase our energy independence in an affordable and achievable way, and energy efficiency is our best resource for doing so.
- Maine is still spending far less per capita on energy efficiency than our neighboring states; we must keep up to stay prosperous and competitive. (Maine now spends \$12 per capita on efficiency programs—VT, MA, CT & RI are all spending or have approved budgets to spend at least \$40-60 per capita on efficiency.)
- While Maine already has a significant energy efficiency economy and workforce, the potential for more jobs is great. This plan would help create thousands of additional efficiency jobs in Maine at a time when we need to increase employment opportunities.
- This long-term plan is the kind of effort that is needed to sustain demand for energy efficiency so the sector can succeed and expand. Maine cannot build an energy efficient economy if we are only following the rollercoaster of oil prices. Long-lasting plans and resources are needed to maintain demand for services and products and sustain the jobs that are created.
- A recent analysis showed that levels of efficiency program investment similar to those proposed in the strawman would increase Maine's cumulative GDP over the next 20 years by \$13 billion and create over 150,000 new jobs. (Environment Northeast, 2009).
- Any personal story you have is a great talking point. Stories about your experience with energy efficiency or weatherization in your home or business are relevant and influential.

If you have questions about the Efficiency Maine Trust, the triennial plan, or providing input, please contact Emmie Theberge or Dylan Voorhees at NRCM at (207) 622-3101.

Help us open a new chapter for energy efficiency in Maine!