



Saving energy for Maine

Program of the Maine Public Utilities Commission

Maine's Small Business Are Doing Their Part to Slow Global Warming

AUGUSTA, ME, April 23, 2007 – When storeowner John Dayhoof decided to expand the Solon Market to 6,200 square feet, the contractors he hired were familiar with the Efficiency Maine program guidelines and helped guide him toward energy efficient equipment that would qualify for cash incentives. The efficiencies he incorporated will save John more than \$2,000 each year in electricity costs, not to mention lowering his kilowatt usage – which benefits the environment.

Energy use and conservation are issues that every business must think about now that global warming has become an everyday concern. In Maine, there is good news to report: small businesses are doing their part and making a difference in reducing energy usage to improve the environment.

More than 800 small businesses have sought assistance from Efficiency Maine, a program of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). From lighting upgrades to improved motor and machinery efficiency and better air conditioning, in the last year alone Maine's small businesses lowered their use of electricity by a combined 20,137,023 kilowatt hours. This reduction translates to 13,050 tons of carbon dioxide – or the equivalent of removing 2,569 cars from the road for a year! In 2006, energy conservation saved Maine's small business community over \$3 million dollars in electricity costs, and earned the group a collective \$1.8 million in cash incentives.

“Maine's small businesses are doing their part to be environmentally responsible,” said Kurt Adams, PUC chairman. “Their efforts are making a difference and we look forward to continuing our partnership with them through Efficiency Maine.”

Efficiency Maine was established by the Maine Legislature four years ago to promote the more efficient use of electricity, to help Maine businesses and residents reduce energy costs, and improve Maine's environment. Free technical advice and cash incentives are available. For more information call 1-866-376-2463 or visit the website at www.energymaine.com.