

FALL 2009

Providing responsive service and leadership to our municipal members and community partners through regional cooperation and collaboration.

MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES:

- [Bridgton](#)
- [Cape Elizabeth](#)
- [Casco](#)
- [Chebeague Island](#)
- [Cumberland](#)
- [Falmouth](#)
- [Freeport](#)
- [Frye Island](#)
- [Gorham](#)
- [Gray](#)
- [Harrison](#)
- [Long Island](#)
- [Naples](#)
- [New Gloucester](#)
- [North Yarmouth](#)
- [Portland](#)
- [Pownal](#)
- [Raymond](#)
- [Scarborough](#)
- [Sebago](#)
- [South Portland](#)
- [Standish](#)
- [West Bath](#)
- [Westbrook](#)
- [Windham](#)
- [Yarmouth](#)

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

- [PROP](#)
- [RC&D](#)

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

- [Cumberland County](#)
- [Portland Water District](#)

EECBG Energy Grants

On September 25, 2009, Efficiency Maine released its request for applications (RFA) for **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG)** to Units of Local and County Government. All municipal governments, except for Maine's 10 largest towns and counties which received money directly from DOE, are eligible to apply. Questions on the RFA were due **October 8**. Applications are due **November 18**. A total of \$5,756,100 is available and match of at least 10 percent is required for all projects.

An individual town may apply for up to \$85,000 to support a **Custom Project**. These are competitive funds available to municipalities that have completed a comprehensive energy strategy and can forecast the energy and greenhouse gas savings with some accuracy as specified in the RFA. **Custom Projects** may include energy audits, retrofits, transportation programs such as traffic signal synchronization, waste reduction, renewable energy generation, and other projects. A town may also apply for a **Template Planning Grant** for up to \$10,000. **Template planning grants** are non-competitive, and a town may apply for both custom and template grants. Finally, two or more towns may band together to compete for up to \$500,000 for a regional custom project. In all cases only a total of \$85,000 will be awarded to any one municipality.



GPCOG staff has prepared and distributed information to assist member municipalities, specifically with template projects. Staff can also help with Custom and Regional proposals if needed.

Brownfields Grant

In August 2009, GPCOG was awarded \$400,000 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRRA) funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to conduct environmental assessments of sites in Cumberland County contaminated by hazardous substances and/or petroleum. A Brownfields site is defined as "real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant." Although the inventory will be Countywide, the GPCOG program will initially target sites in Portland Harbor, Downtown Bridgton, Gray Village, and Steep Falls Village in Standish.

Through a competitive procurement process, GPCOG has selected [Credere Associates](#) of Portland, Maine to serve as the environmental consultant for the program.

A Brownfields Advisory Committee is being formed to provide overall guidance and direction for the program.

GPCOG/SPO Approve Regional Planning MOU

On October 14, Liz Hertz, [State Planning Office](#) Land Use Planning Director, met with the GPCOG Executive Committee to discuss GPCOG's proposal to develop a regional comprehensive plan for a group of towns within its geography. GPCOG and the SPO are excited about this undertaking and opportunity to move toward regional land use planning especially around shared resources and infrastructure.

After a brief period of discussion and questions, the GPCOG Executive Committee voted unanimously to support a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SPO to kick off the effort.

For more information, contact [Elizabeth Hertz](#), 287-8061, or [Neal Allen](#), GPCOG Executive Director, at 774-9891.

FAME Revolving Loan Fund Improved

GPCOG's Revolving Loan Fund will benefit from changes announced by the [Finance Authority of Maine](#). In an effort to better meet the needs of more businesses, FAME's Regional Economic Development Loan Program (REDLP) will increase fund disbursements to regional economic development agencies, amend financing terms and conditions; and expand eligibility for projects. Contact [Vin Di-Cara](#) for more information.



Ribbon Cutting for Biodiesel Pump in Portland

[Maine Clean Communities](#) is Co-Sponsoring a Ribbon Cutting to inaugurate the opening of Maine Bio-Fuel. The ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, October 28 at 11:30 a.m. at 51 Ingersoll Drive (off Riverside Street) in Portland. Governor John Baldacci and Portland Mayor Jill Duson (invited) will speak at the event.

[Maine Bio-Fuel](#) makes biodiesel from waste grease (also known as waste vegetable oil or WVO) that it collects from local restaurants. It has the capacity to produce over one million gallons of biodiesel a year.

Gorham East West Corridor Study

[PACTS](#) and [GPCOG](#) staff are participating in the recently started Gorham East West Corridor Study. This regional land use and transportation study will likely produce major land use and transportation recommendations in 2010. Visit <http://www.gorhamcorridor.org/> for

We Welcome...

[Damaris "Marnie" Diffen](#), who has been hired as North Yarmouth's new Administrative Assistant.

We say Goodbye to...

[Paul McKenney](#), GPCOG's Immediate Past President and member of the Steering & Executive Committees for numerous years. Paul was instrumental in developing GPCOG's seven sustainability principles.

[Genie Beaulieu](#), President of GPCOG from 2003-2005 and member of the Steering and Executive Committees for eleven years. Genie initiated the Regional ReCOgnition Awards.

[Sue McIntyre](#) served as Administrative Assistant and provided support to many GPCOG and PACTS Committees, as well as the Waterfront Alliance.

Cooperative Purchasing

Salt Bid

International Salt (ISCO) was this year's successful bidder. Following the timing of their contracting with GPCOG for this season, they became engaged in a corporate merger with their former competitor, Morton Salt.

After discussions with the FTC and the Maine Attorney General, we agreed with the FTC/AG that the merger could affect the future competitive market base in Maine. Consequently, we entered into negotiations between all parties in order to ensure the best possible outcome for the sixty municipalities that participate in the GPCOG road salt bid. As a result, the road salt bid will be provided through Eastern Salt. ISCO will subcontract its stockpile & delivery to Eastern Salt; Eastern will maintain the stockpile in South Portland at its current site. ISCO has agreed to a \$1.00 per ton price reduction to \$66.69 delivered, \$66.50 pickup, and a financial contribution to GPCOG to provide us with funds to carefully monitor the contract.

For more information, log into the [Cooperative Services](#) page of the [GPCOG web site](#).



Signs and Accessories

This year's bid has been awarded to [Perma-Line Corp.](#) The contract start date is October 1, 2009. This long running bid has been noted for obtaining the lowest available prices on quality signs, signposts, and other safety products such as barricades, flashers and barrels.



This year's Office Supply bid was awarded to [OfficeMax](#). The contract start date was July 1, 2009. This bid is available to communities, schools and special districts, and offers



Fifteen new commuter vans have been added to the [GO Maine](#) commuter options program thereby bringing the total number of vans to thirty six. Our commuter data base continues to grow.

Check out the new [GO MAINE YouTube video](#) regarding park & ride lots and bike racks. Find out how to qualify to win a \$500 savings bond.

Regional Transit Map & Timetable

The Regional Transit Map and Timetable, a GPCOG/PACTS collaborative project, has been completed. This idea was one of the recommendations from the PACTS Regional Transit Coordination Study, which was staffed by GPCOG.

The Transit Committee is also working with GoogleTransit to use their Trip Planner capabilities for all of the transit systems. Stay tuned!

Visit the GPCOG web site at www.gpcog.org

News from PACTS

Bike/Ped Plan

PACTS has hired Bruce Hyman Planning to conduct an important update to the 1999 PACTS Bike/Ped Plan. This update is a comprehensive look at existing bicycle pedestrian facilities, planned facilities and future needs. It is comprehensive not only because the PACTS region expanded from seven to fifteen municipalities since the original report but because many improvements have been implemented since the original plan was published.



Three Concepts for Franklin Street made Public

The Franklin Street Arterial Study Group has been meeting since last December working with consultants to develop design alternatives for a redeveloped Franklin Street corridor. Three design concepts for a revised Franklin Street Arterial were shared with the broad public on September 2nd.

This project was initiated by the citizen group the *Franklin Reclamation Authority* (FRA) and funded through PACTS and the City. The three concepts the study group has developed are the Urban Street, the Parkway and a Multi-way Boulevard. For illustrations and explanations for the concepts see: <http://franklinstreet.us/three-concepts-for-franklin-street>.

For more information on PACTS, visit their web site at www.pactsplan.org.