

GPCOG Regional ReCOGnition Awards

June 9, 2011

Presented to the Towns of Falmouth, Yarmouth and North Yarmouth For Best Practices in Regional Collaboration

The Greater Portland Council of Governments commends the Municipal Officers, Town Managers, Public Safety and Public Works Departments of Falmouth, Yarmouth, and North Yarmouth for their commitment to regional collaboration and the delivery of cost effective public services through the establishment of a *Regional Communications Center* located in the Falmouth Police Station and through which Police, Fire, Emergency Medical Services and Public Works services are dispatched for each town.

Presented to Maine Standard Biofuels For Best Practices in Energy Sustainability

The Greater Portland Council of Governments commends *Maine Standard Biofuels*, a Portland based manufacturer of renewable fuel for its recycling of waste cooking oil resulting in a closed loop manufacturing system that is used to heat and power its processing facility with near zero environmental impact and further that the biodiesel fuel produced provides an alternative fuel source for Maine businesses and consumers.

Presented to the Town of Cape Elizabeth For Best Practices in Citizen Participation & Communications

The Greater Portland Council of Governments commends the Cape Elizabeth Town Council and staff for its leadership in guiding the development and implementation of a *Communications Strategy* that serves to encourage public participation at all public meetings and to more effectively provide information on municipal services and local issues to citizens and other parties.

Presented to AVESTA Housing For Best Practices in Affordable and Sustainable Housing

The Greater Portland Council of Governments commends AVESTA Housing for its commitment to the principles of affordability and sustainability as represented in *Pearl Place* a Certified LEED Gold housing development recognized by the 2008 US Green Building Council as the “Outstanding Multi-Family Project of the Year” and by the

Portland Society of Architects for excellence in urban design, architecture and energy efficiency.

**Presented to METRO and the South Portland Bus Service
For Best Practices In Regional Collaboration and Improved Service**

The Greater Portland Council of Governments commends METRO and the South Portland Bus Service for collaborating in the development and implementation of a *Regional Monthly Pass* that will allow riders of each transit system to travel seamlessly throughout the communities served by each provider.

**Presented to the Towns of Gorham and Scarborough and the Cities of South Portland and Westbrook, the Portland Area Comprehensive Transportation System, the Maine Department of Transportation, the Maine Turnpike Authority and HNTB
For Best Practices in Regional Planning and Collaboration**

The Greater Portland Council of Governments commends the Municipal Officers, Managers and Planners of the above towns and cities who together with PACTS, MDOT, MTA and HNTB successfully lead a region-wide *Gorham East/West Corridor Feasibility Study, Phase I*, that seeks to integrate future regional transportation, economic development, growth management and infrastructure investments through the application of sound sustainability principles.

**Presented to the University of Southern Maine, Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service
For Best Practices in Student-Citizen Participation**

The Greater Portland Council of Governments commends the faculty and students of the Muskie School of Public Service master's level class in Community Planning and Development for its work in preparing and presenting *The Innovative Public Engagement Techniques* report to the communities participating in the GPCOG Lakes Region Planning Initiative.

**Presented to the Town of Yarmouth
For Best Practices in Citizen Participation & Sustainability**

The Greater Portland Council of Governments commends the Town of Yarmouth and *The Herbie Project Committee* for its exemplary community-wide initiative to preserve the legacy of “Herbie” (1793-2010), that until 2010 was New England’s largest surviving American Elm Tree. Through the innovative reuse and sale of Herbie’s 8,000 board feet the Town established a special **Tree Trust** to ensure a sustainable funding source for Yarmouth’s tree planting program.

The Greater Portland Council of Governments also salutes **Frank Knight**, the Town of Yarmouth’s former tree warden whose extraordinary efforts extended Herbie’s life by over 50 years.
