



Items of interest to Maine's Forestry Community Brought to you by the [Maine Forest Products Council](#)

Legislative Update

The First Regular Session of the 123rd Maine legislature adjourned on June 21. MFPC's Executive Director Patrick Strauch and lobbyist Michele Maclean provided non-stop coverage of the session to represent MFPC members' interests.

Tax reform legislation, which proposed shifting a significant amount of the state's tax burden to various parts of the business sector, was defeated after major opposition from the business community.

In last minute activity, the legislature enacted a bill that increases the municipal cost component (property tax) for state and county services provided to the unorganized territory to reflect increased funding for educational services.

The Legislature voted to enact LD 1851 - Implementation of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). This bill establishes a statewide carbon dioxide cap-and-trade program for fossil fuel fired electrical generating units within the State that have a nameplate capacity equal to or greater than 25 megawatts and requires the Department of Environmental Protection to develop carbon dioxide cap-and-trade rules that ensure credible greenhouse gas emissions reductions. The bill also authorizes the DEP to adopt major substantive rules regarding combined heat and power incentives and the Public Utilities Commission to adopt major substantive rules regarding the establishment and administration of the Maine Energy Conservation Board. The bill also authorizes the sale of carbon dioxide emissions allowances for the benefit of consumers and the creation of the Energy and Carbon Savings Trust.

The legislature also enacted LD 1381 - Resolve, to Ensure the Success of Regional Climate Change Efforts, which creates a study by the Office of the Public Advocate to identify options for reducing any RGGI-related costs to taxpayers.

Energy related legislation is a major issue for our Manufacturing Committee members who worked to develop a position that highlights concern over increasing energy costs and Maine's lack of a comprehensive energy policy. The MFPC will need to continue to be actively engaged in energy policy issues as they proceed.

A summary of this and other legislation enacted that will impact MFPC members is under preparation and will be published with the next edition of **Forest Products News**.

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Patrick Strauch Representing MFPC on Regional Deer Task Force

In May, IF&W Commissioner Roland D. Martin announced the creation of a northern and eastern Maine deer task force that will discuss and develop recommendations for deer management in those regions.

The task force is comprised of ten people representing various organizations. Included in the group are three IF&W Wildlife Biologists: Regional Wildlife Biologist Rich Hoppe of Ashland, Regional Wildlife Supervisor Gene Dumont, and Lee Kantar, Department Deer Biologist. Among the people and organizations who also will be part of the task force are Matt Libby of the Maine Professional Guides Association and owner of Libby's Camps; Don Dudley of the Maine Trappers Association; Brian Smith of the Maine Bowhunters Association; Gerry Lavigne of the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine; Sally Stockwell of Maine Audubon; Pat Strauch of the Maine Products Council; and Tom Doak of Small Woodlot Owners Association of Maine (SWOAM).

Among the charges of the task force will be to characterize the status and condition of our deer populations in northern and eastern Maine; review ways to enhance deer wintering habitat in northern and eastern Maine; review coyote management policies; and submit recommendations within 60 days. This process has the potential to have a significant impact on land owners and their management activities in the region.

The task force has met several times over the last few weeks. Look for an in depth update in the next edition of ***Forest Products News***.

Huber Engineered Woods Receives OSHA VPP Recognition And Announces Major Capital Project

Huber Engineered Woods (HEW) Easton, ME, operation has been recognized by OSHA for achieving Merit status in its Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). OSHA awards VPP certification to companies committed to superior safety and health practices in the workplace. Standards for certification are very high, with only a small percentage of U.S. companies meeting OSHA's criteria; Huber's Easton location is the 23rd in Maine to achieve OSHA VPP status.

Huber has been part of Easton since 1981 and their facility currently employs approximately 130 workers. The mill manufactures specialty building products including engineered structural panels. During the May 9 event, HEW also announced plans for a \$39 million dollar capital project. The project will allow HEW to redesign, upgrade and add equipment for operational efficiency.

VPP is OSHA's official recognition of the outstanding efforts of employers and employees who have achieved exemplary occupational safety and health standards. Companies interested in achieving VPP status must implement stringent criteria for health and safety practices in the workplace. When a company applies for VPP, a team of OSHA safety and health experts assesses applicants and subsequently performs a rigorous on-site evaluation. The process of preparing for VPP is a long-term commitment, taking most facilities between three and five years to qualify.

For more information: <http://www.huberwood.com/media/pdf/HEWSafetyEaston.pdf>

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MFPC Summer Golf Tournament - Thursday, July 12

There's still a little room left for last minute entries in the MFPC Summer Golf Tournament, Fundraiser & 19th Hole Reception at the Bangor Municipal Golf Course, Thursday, July 12. Check in is at 12:30 pm with a shotgun start 1:00 pm. If you'd like to participate, contact Sue McCarthy at 622-9288 or go to: [MFPC Summer Golf Tournament](#)

Upcoming Events

JULY

10-13		2007 Forests of Maine Teachers' Tour Rangeley Lakes and Western Mountains	
12	9:00 am – 12 noon	MFPC Exec. Committee	Bangor
12	1:00 pm	MFPC Summer Golf Tournament	Bangor
17-20		2007 Forests of Maine Teachers' Tour Central Maine's Penobscot-Hancock Highlands	

AUGUST

9	9:00 am – 12 noon	MFPC Exec. Committee	Augusta, MFPC
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SEPTEMBER

14		Log-a-Load Golf Tournament	Lincoln, JATO Highlands
23-24		MFPC Annual Meeting	Caribou

OCTOBER

10-12		Wood Products Mfg. Assoc. Annual Meeting For more info. e-mail: woodprod@wpma.org	Lancaster, PA
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You can read Forest Notes online at the [Maine Forest Products Council](#) website.