

“Initiating and facilitating the creations of jobs and prosperity in Washington County”

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Stetson Mountain Wind Farm Ribbon Cutting



Maine Governor John E. Baldacci (center) cuts the ribbon today to commence commercial operations at First Wind’s Stetson project near Danforth, Maine. Pictured (from left to right): Pete Didisheim, Advocacy Director for the Natural Resources Council of Maine; Harold Clossey, Executive Director of the Sunrise County Economic Council; State Rep. Everett McLeod (hidden); Paul Gaynor, President and CEO of First Wind; Chris Gardner, Chairman of the Washington County Commissioners; Governor Baldacci; Kurt Adams, Chief Development Officer for First Wind; Jack Parker, President and CEO of Reed & Reed; Matt Kearns, Director of Northeast Development for First Wind. (Photo: First Wind) See story Page 2.

Cooke Aquaculture Doubles US Workforce

SCEC Board of Directors representatives Shirley Erickson, County Commissioner Chris Gardner, Cooke’s Eastport Site Manager Dave Morang, and executive director Harold Clossey joined Cooke Aquaculture at a ribbon cutting ceremony reopening their Machiasport fresh salmon processing plant January 14.

In this economic climate many employers are cutting back, but Cooke plans to double its US workforce – mostly in Eastport and Machiasport – to nearly 200 jobs.

“SCEC has been really supportive of the Cooke family’s efforts to revive the salmon

processing industry in Downeast Maine,” Clossey said “At a time when companies are struggling to survive, it’s encouraging to see an industry on the rebound, headed in the right direction, and creating well-paying jobs with benefits. I would like to express SCEC’s gratitude to the Cooke family for this critical investment in Washington County. It was a pleasure hearing from Mike Cooke how impressed his management team is with the local workforce and the quality and commitment of employees.”

This issue:

- Cooke Aquaculture Reopens in Machiasport
- Stetson Mountain Wind Farm Opens
- Eaton Scholarship for Young Adults
- 2008 Annual Campaign Wrap Up
- 2009 WCLI Underway



Processing salmon at Cooke Aquaculture in Machiasport. (Photo: Cooke Aquaculture)





First Wind Stetson Mountain On-line

SCEC Executive Director Harold Closley attended the grand opening of the Stetson Wind Project January 22. The project, located on Stetson Mountain near Danforth, employed nearly 350 people during construction, and is expected to generate 167 million kilowatt hours of wind energy per year.

“Washington County always prospers when we build on our natural resource economy,” Closley

said of the project which would provide electricity to 23,500 homes a year, “historically that has meant securing fishing and mill related jobs. While those are critical, SCEC realizes that in order to sustain long term economic development, we as a county need to be a green energy hub, whether that’s wind or tidal power.”

SCEC has assisted parent company First Wind every step of the

way – testifying in favor of the project before the Land Use Regulatory Commission (LURC) and the state Legislature, working with lawmakers and the county commissioners to create tax incentives that make the project economically viable, and positioning the region as Maine’s leading supplier of alternative energy.

For more information, see www.firstwind.com.

Eaton Foundation Supports Training Scholarships

“This program is such a help to a small business in an economically depressed area - to help get needed training essential for keeping up with technology in today’s workplace. This encourages our young people to stay here, where they can still get the training they need”

*Cindy O’Brien
O’Brien’s Quality Auto Care & Sales
Calais, Maine*

Know a young adult between the ages of 18-29 who wants to stay in Washington County but needs job-specific training or certification and can’t afford it? Are you an employer who wants to keep a good employee but can’t afford to send them for training? SCEC’s Eaton Foundation Young Adult Scholarship Program may be able to help.

In December 2008, SCEC received a generous grant from the Eaton Foundation to offer career-advancement scholarships to young adults (18-29) from Washington County who meet low-to-

moderate income standards and whose employer is unable to cover the full cost of training.

Originally offered to young adults seeking CRMA/CNA certification, Eaton accepted SCEC’s proposal to expand the program after we successfully awarded several scholarships during 2008. These scholarships enable young adults to participate in training that can help increase their opportunities for employment or job advancement. Generally, no scholarship funds are available for students who need help financing these types of trainings. This program

is designed to help fill that gap. Along with benefiting young adults, this program assists Washington County businesses. According to one Washington County employer, “this fund is a blessing for small businesses who can’t afford to send their employees for training.”

Contact Jennifer Peters (255-0983) for more information including terms and eligibility requirements of the Eaton Foundation Young Adult Scholarship Program.

SCEC Begins 13th Year of Leadership Training



See photo on page 4

SCEC kicked off the 13th year of the Washington County Leadership Institute (WCLI) with a two-day retreat over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. Participants visited the Downeast Institute (DEI) in Beals, the Community of Christ Church in Jonesport, and the University of Maine at Machias (UMM) campus.

WCLI is SCEC’s longest running and most successful program with 197 alumni from all over Washington County -- and a handful from beyond. This year’s (Nu) class will set an important milestone when the 200th participant graduates the nine-week course in April. Many WCLI

alumni have gone on to hold public office or serve in a leadership role at their office, church, school, or community group, playing a vital role in building a network of hands on, local leaders.

Members of the Nu (2009) class include Sherri Cox (Bragdon-Kelley Funeral Homes), Stephen Erwin (Duty Free America), Laurie Fogelman (The Next Step Domestic Violence Project), Nelson Geel (Axiom Technologies), Tonia Hold (Down East Credit Union), Charley Martin-Berry (Cobscook Community Learning Center), Rebecca McKenna (CES, Inc.), Kathleen Shannon

(Machias Bay Area Chamber of Commerce), Daniel Swain (UMM student), Kevin Thompson (Cobscook Community Learning Center), and Robert Tracy (Machias Savings Bank).

Special thanks go out to the WCLI sponsors who help to keep the program going. This year’s include Camden National Bank, the Eaton Foundation, First Wind Energy, RHR Smith & Company, Sunrise County Economic Council, University of Maine at Machias, and the Washington County Council of Governments— with a special luncheon sponsored by Leadership Maine.

Over 50 new donors bolster SCEC Annual Campaign

Sunrise County Economic Council Board and staff completed their 2008 annual campaign this past December. While just short of its \$65,000 goal, the organization is grateful for the dramatic increase of new contributors supporting SCEC's work in Washington County.

These first time contributors have helped SCEC to meet its challenge from the CF Adams Charitable Trust, a private foundation that has supported SCEC's work for several years. \$15,000 from first time contributors and donors wishing to increase their gift over previous years has been matched, which gave SCEC a serious boost toward its campaign goal.

"Though the donation amount in some cases decreased, the actual number of new contributors increased by 52, helping us to meet and exceed the CF Adams Challenge" stated Annual Campaign Chairman Ed Plissey of Machiasport.

"None of this would have been possible without the dedication and leadership of our annual campaign committee," Closesey said. "Everyone pitched in, reaching out to individuals, businesses, and organizations of all shapes and sizes. We are well aware that people are re-assessing their charitable giving in the current economic climate. It's humbling and validating that our work is supported by so many."

Other campaign committee members included Chris Lyford (Machias Savings Bank), Josh Bragg (CES, Inc), Shirley Erickson (Maine Educational Loan Authority), and Charlie McAlpin (Eastern Maine Electric Co-op). Showing their united support for SCEC, 100% of the board participated in this year's campaign.

"Staff really rolled up their sleeves and assisted the campaign committee," Closesey continued. "To have a devoted board, staff, and community makes a huge difference as we work hard to support, promote, and stimulate a positive economic development environment in Washington County."



SCEC ED Harold Closesey accepts Machias Savings Bank's 2008 contribution from MSB employee and SCEC Board member Christian Lyford and MSB President/CEO Ed Hennessey. (Photo: SCEC)

Thank You to all of SCEC's 2008 Annual Campaign Contributors

- Accommodore
- Acrobat Research
- Anne Perry*
- Axiom
- Bangor Savings Bank
- Bar Harbor Bank & Trust
- Bayside Chocolates
- BaySide Supermarket, Inc.
- Billy Howard
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- Blueberry Ford
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- Calais Family Eye Care
- Calais Rotary Club
- Camden National Bank
- CF Adams Charitable Trust
- Charlie McAlpin*
- Cherryfield Foods
- Chris Gardner*
- Chris Lyford*
- Cooke Aquaculture
- Darin McGaw*
- Dave & Vickie Morang*
- David Freedberg & Anna Grimshaw
- Dead River Company
- Down East Credit Union
- Downeast LNG
- Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative
- Eastport Chowder House
- Eastport Port Authority
- Ed & Vicki Farrell
- Federal Marine Terminals
- First Wind Energy
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- Frank Guidi
- Gail and Wayne Peters
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- Gay's Wreaths
- Gerald L. Wood & Son LLC
- Greystone B&B
- Growing Concern
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- J L Huntley, Inc.
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- Josh & Deanne Bragg*
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- Lubec Property Rental - Jody Grimes*
- Machias Friendly Pharmacy
- Machias Motor Inn
- Machias Rotary Club
- Machias Savings Bank
- Machias Savings Bank Employees
- Marcus & Marlene Barresi
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- The First, N.A.
- The International Motel
- The Office
- The Scoop
- Thornton & Kathy Land
- Tidewalker Associates
- Time Warner Cable
- Tony McKim*
- Treworgy Pharmacy
- Unique Possibilities
- Varney Insurance Agency
- W. K. Construction & Sons
- Water's Edge Realty
- Wayne Dodwell
- Will Tuell

***SCEC Board member**

Sunrise County Business Support Center

Your one-stop resource for small business development and support

Thinking of starting a business, but you don't know where to turn? Have an existing business and want to expand? Need to fine tune your business plan or find additional sources of financing? SCEC's Sunrise County Business Support Center is the place for you! Not sure who to call first? We can help—call SCEC at 255-0983.



Business Counselor:
Ruth Cash Smith 255-0983



Small Business Coordinator:
Elizabeth Sprague 479-3071



Business Counselor:
Betty Egner 664-2990 & 255-8811



Want info on tax incentives for Washington County businesses? Call SCEC at 255-0983.

WACOBIZ.COM

FUNNY NAME. SERIOUS BUSINESS.
FREE BUSINESS RESOURCES

SCEC's on-line small business resource directory for Washington County based businesses. Whether you're looking for info on starting a business, business plan templates, writing a business plan, small business financing sources, or local business counseling, WACOBIZ has pulled together a growing list of business development links to help you find business resources across the Down East region and beyond.



2009 WCLI NU class and a few alumni visit with Leadership Maine coordinator, Cheryl Miller (Photo: SCEC)

Other Partners located at 1 Stackpole Road:

Washington County Council of Governments
Jeremy Gabrielson, 255-0983

Washington County: One Community
Eleody Libby, 263-7691

Sunrise County Economic Council

is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) that initiates and facilitates the creation of jobs and prosperity in Washington County by working with a consortium of community-minded businesses, nonprofit organizations, municipalities and citizens.

Founded in 1993 by a group of business and community leaders, SCEC uses a grassroots approach to economic and community development. By seeking common ground, working across traditional political, municipal and economic boundaries, Washington County residents are building a brighter future.

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