

# Turning Up the Heat on Maine's Energy Crisis: Philanthropy's Role in Creating Local Solutions

September 29, 2008

**Angus King** (Keynote Speaker), *Principal*, Independence Wind. Angus King has served two four-year terms as Maine's 71st governor (1995-2003). He is currently Of Counsel to the Bernstein Shur law firm in Portland, teaches at Bowdoin College, and serves on the boards of and advises several Maine-based and international corporations. Prior to serving as Governor, he created and operated Northeast Energy Management, Inc., a developer of major electrical energy conservation projects in south central Maine. His company completed and managed over \$12 million in projects at commercial, institutional and industrial facilities during the period 1989-1994. Prior to this time, King was chief counsel to Swift River/Hafslund Company, a firm that developed hydropower and biomass projects throughout New England. Governor King is also well known for his almost 20-year stint as host of "Maine Watch" on the Maine Public Broadcasting Network. In May 2007, he was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree by Bowdoin and he recently served as Visiting Fellow, Institute of Politics at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

**Meredith Jones** (Moderator), *Vice President – Program Development and Grantmaking Services*, Maine Community Foundation (512-4902; mjones@mainecf.org). At MCF Meredith is responsible for leading a team that awarded over \$16 million in grants to nonprofit organizations and individuals in 2007. She helped to create the Compact for Higher Education, a partnership with the Maine Development Foundation to increase the educational attainment of all Maine people. Previously, she was the director of education and training for the Maine Health Care Association and a program director at Maine Development Foundation. She currently serves on the editorial review committee for the *Maine Policy Review* and is chair of the Maine Philanthropy Center's Board of Directors.

## Panelists

**John Kerry**, *Director*, Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security (287-3292; john.kerry@maine.gov). John has extensive experience in both the public and private sectors, including work in the environmental and energy fields. He served two years in the State Senate, where he chaired the Utilities Committee, and one term in the State House of Representatives. From 1983 to 1986 he was the executive director of the Maine Office of Energy Resources in the Brennan Administration. John holds a master's degree in Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and a master's degree in Planning from Boston College.

**Suzanne McCormick**, *President*, People's Regional Opportunity Program (553-5801; smccormick@propeople.org). Suzanne was hired as the CEO of PROP in April 2008. Previously she served as senior program officer and then CEO of the American Red Cross of Southern Maine, and prior to that held senior level positions at the United Way of Greater Portland, including vice president of agency relations and vice president of major gifts and planned giving. Suzanne began her career in the nonprofit sector as a Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand. She is a graduate of Duke University.

**Kathy Poulin**, *Special Projects Administrator*, MaineHousing (626-4610; kpoulin@mainehousing.org). Kathy joined MaineHousing in 2001 as Manager of Resident Services and has held her current position since 2006, working on the organization's energy initiatives and legislative advocacy. Her previous positions include assistant marketing manager for NorthCenter Foodservice, regional supervisor and director of marketing and development for Home Resources of Maine, and several management positions with Senior Spectrum, the Area Agency on Aging for Central Maine. She is a graduate of the University of Maine at Farmington.

**Rob Brown**, *Executive Director*, Opportunity Maine (699-5885; rob@opportunitymaine.org). Rob is the founding executive director of Opportunity Maine, a nonprofit organization established by student and community leaders to strengthen intergenerational collaboration and promote innovative investments in educational and economic opportunity. He served as staff for the Maine Citizen Leadership Fund and the Dirigo Alliance, helped organize the Taxpayers for a Fair Budget coalition, and was a project director with Food AND Medicine in eastern Maine. Rob recently was made a William J. Clinton Distinguished Lecturer at the Clinton Presidential Library and School of Public Service.

**Betsy Biemann**, *President*, Maine Technology Institute (582-4790 x202; bbiemann@mainetechnology.org). Betsy was appointed by Governor Baldacci to head the Maine Technology Institute in 2005. The Institute's purpose is to support entrepreneurs in the State's seven targeted technology sectors to bring new products and services to market and thereby create good jobs for Maine residents. She previously served for nearly a decade as Associate Director of the Working Communities program at The Rockefeller Foundation. There she oversaw a five-year, \$22 million grant and investment program to expand access to employment in low-income communities across the United States. She earned her undergraduate degree at Harvard University and her master's in public administration from Princeton University. Betsy is a member of the Maine Philanthropy Center's Board of Directors.