

[SUSAN]

MAINE IS GETTING MORE THAN 220 THOUSAND DOLLARS IN ADDITIONAL
MONEY FOR TO HELP MAINERS HEAT THEIR HOMES THIS WINTER...

[SUPER:ADDITIONAL HEATING ASSISTANCE MONEY
FOR MAINE/FILE/]

[VO]

SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT THURSDAY MORNING.
THE MONEY IS GOING TO THE LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM OR "LIHEAP."

IT'S PART OF FUNDING THAT WAS RETURNED TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
AND IS NOW BEING REDISTRIBUTED.

[GFX]

SENATOR COLLINS SAID QUOTE "THIS ADDITIONAL LIHEAP FUNDING WILL
PROVIDE MUCH NEEDED RELIEF TO OUR MOST VULNERABLE RESIDENTS,
ENSURING THEY CAN AFFORD TO STAY WARM DURING THE HARSH WINTER
MONTHS WITHOUT SACRIFICING OTHER ESSENTIAL NEEDS."

[EMMA]

IT WAS FIVE YEARS AGO WHEN FOXCROFT ACADEMY MOVED FORWARD WITH A PLAN TO PUT SOLAR PANELS ON THE ROOF OF THE JIM ROBINSON FIELD HOUSE.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PROJECT'S COMPLETION...THOSE CLOSE TO IT OFFICIALLY CUT THE RIBBON TODAY IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOLS FACULTY AND STAFF.

[VO]

[SUPER: JIM ROBINSON FIELD HOUSE GOES SOLAR
/ DOVER-FOXCROFT /]

THE FIELD HOUSE IS PERFECTLY SITUATED TO RECEIVE SUN FROM THE EAST AND WEST.

THE SOLAR PANELS WILL HELP GENERATE RENEWABLE ENERGY NOT JUST FOR THE ACADEMY, BUT THE R.S.U. 68 SCHOOL DISTRICT AS A WHOLE.

[SOT]

[TIME CUE:// 0:10]

[SUPER: ARNOLD SHOREY / HEAD OF SCHOOL,
DOVER-FOXCROFT ACADEMY /]

[IT'LL PRODUCE ENERGY CREDITS WHICH WILL BE USED TO REDUCE OUR RATE FOR ELECTRICITY. AT LEAST 15 PERCENT, AND IT DOES THE SAME FOR R.S.U. 68.]

[VO]

THE JIM ROBINSON FIELD HOUSE IS HOME TO THE ACADEMY'S ATHLETICS, INCLUDING THE PONIES FIELD HOCKEY AND SOCCER TEAMS, AS WELL AS OTHER COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES.

SHOREY HOPES THIS WILL BE THE FIRST STEP IN HELPING THE DISTRICT REDUCE ITS CARBON FOOTPRINT.

[CRAIG]

SOME GREAT NEWS FOR MAINERS WHO RELY ON HEATING ASSISTANCE...
MAINE'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION ANNOUNCED THAT THE STATE HAS
BEEN AWARDED MORE THAN \$38 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR THE LOW-INCOME
HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP) IN 2024.

[GFX]

IN A JOINT STATEMENT, THE DELEGATION SAID, QUOTE:
"WITH HOME HEATING PRICES SET TO REMAIN AT NEAR RECORD LEVELS IN
THE COMING MONTHS, IT'S ESSENTIAL THAT THIS ASSISTANCE CONTINUES TO
GET TO THE FAMILIES THAT NEED IT MOST. SECURING THESE RESOURCES HAS
BEEN A SHARED PRIORITY, AND WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO THAT MISSION SO
HARD-WORKING MAINE FAMILIES HAVE ONE LESS THING TO WORRY ABOUT AS
TEMPERATURES DROP."

[CRAIG]

IF YOU'RE IN NEED OF HEATING ASSISTANCE THIS WINTER, YOU CAN APPLY
FOR LIHEAP FUNDING THROUGH YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY.
ELIGIBILITY IS BASED ON INCOME, FAMILY SIZE, AND THE AVAILABILITY OF
RESOURCES.

[ANCHOR]

MAINE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION'S LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAM HAS RECEIVED A 7-POINT-5 MILLION DOLLAR INCREASE IN FUNDING -- AND THIS YEAR, THEY'RE EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY. THE PROGRAM GRANTS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO HELP ELIGIBLE MAINERS PAY THEIR ELECTRIC BILLS. OUR DOUG BANKS HAS THE DETAILS.

[PKG]

[TIME CUE:// 1:43]

[SUPER: HELPING MAINERS WINTER ELECTRIC BILLS / BANGOR /]

[*NATS* IF YOU ARE ONE OF THE 67 THOUSAND MAINERS WHO RECEIVE THIS LETTER FROM DHHS, THEN YOU'RE ELIGIBLE TO HAVE MONEY, ALSO KNOWN AS BILL CREDITS, TAKEN OFF YOUR ELECTRIC BILL. 13 THOUSAND OF THOSE LETTERS WERE SENT TO VERSANT CUSTOMERS.]

[SUPER: MARISSA MINOR / LEAD COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST, VERSANT POWER /]

["WE NEED THE HELP FROM DHHS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, TO DETERMINE WHO IS INCOME ELIGIBLE. THEY HAVE ALL OF THAT DATA, THEY SEND THE LETTERS, AND THE LETTERS ARE SENT BACK TO VERSANT POWER OR THE UTILITY THAT THE CUSTOMER USES."]

[THE LETTER INSTRUCTS ELIGIBLE MAINERS TO FILL OUT THE NAME OF YOUR ELECTRIC COMPANY, ACCOUNT NUMBER, THE NAMES ON THAT ACCOUNT, AND TO SEND THE LETTER TO YOUR POWER COMPANY.]

[CONTACT AND MAILING INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED.]

[SUPER: PHILIP BARTLETT / CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION /]

["THE UTILITY CAN ACTUALLY TELL THEM HOW TO ENTER THEIR INFORMATION IN A WEB FORM AND DHHS CAN VERIFY WHETHER THEY'RE ELIGIBLE OR NOT. SO IF SOMEBODY THINKS THEY SHOULD'VE GOTTEN A LETTER AND DIDN'T THERE'S NO NEED TO PANIC JUST REACH OUT TO YOUR UTILITY AND THAT CAN BE CHECKED."]

[A STATEMENT FROM THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC ADVOCATE STRONGLY URGES ELIGIBLE MAINERS *NOT* TO WAIT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY SAYING, BENEFITS OF UP TO ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS DEPENDING ON HOUSEHOLD INCOME ARE AVAILABLE BY SIMPLY SENDING A COPY OF THE LETTER TO YOUR LOCAL UTILITY.]

[THOSE ALREADY ENROLLED IN THE LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE ENROLLED IN THE LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.*NATS*]

["GO TO WWW.MAINEELECTRICHELP.COM WHICH IS A WEBSITE THAT WE'VE SET UP THAT PROVIDES INFORMATION ON THE VARIOUS TYPES OF ASSISTANCE THAT ARE AVAILABLE NOT ONLY FOR YOUR ELECTRIC BILL BUT YOUR UTILITY BILLS."]

[IN BANGOR, DOUG BANKS ABC7 AND FOX22 NEWS.]

[BETH]

LOOKS LIKE MAINERS WILL GET A BIT OF A BREAK AFTER ALL....
EARLIER THIS WEEK WE TOLD YOU THE IRS WAS PLANNING TO TAX THE
WINTER ENERGY RELIEF PAYMENTS AND THAT HAD CAUSED THE
MAINE COMMISSIONER OF "THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND
FINANCIAL SERVICES" TO SEND A LETTER TO THE IRS ASKING THEM *NOT* TO
DO SO.

[GFX]

FRIDAY AFTERNOON THE IRS SENT OUT A STATEMENT SAYING QUOTE " THE IRS
UNDERSTANDS THE CONCERNS OF MAINE RESIDENTS AND ASSURES
TAXPAYERS THAT THEIR STATE PAYMENTS TO LOWER THE COST ON WINTER
ENERGY BILLS ARE NOT TAXABLE UNDER FEDERAL LAW."
THE IRS SAYS IT HAS COMMUNICATED THIS TO STATE OFFICIALS TO ELIMINATE
ANY CONFUSION.