

About Us



Coastal Marine Policy: Maine's coastal and marine resources are important to the health of Maine's coastal municipalities and economy; therefore, it is important to manage these resources effectively. Regional, federal, and international jurisdictional boundaries combine with state management plans to create a complicated administrative environment. This administrative environment is not conducive to the development and siting of important emerging technologies, like offshore wind farms requiring the agreement of multiple agencies, interests, and mandates. Currently, a draft of recommendations by the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force on a National Ocean Policy is being reviewed by the Senate Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries and Coast Guard, with Maine Senator Olympia Snowe as the ranking Republican. The framework of the new national policy would incorporate an ecosystem-based approach to management thus changing the current federal marine management system, impacting Maine's.



John Abbett

Class Year: 2010

Hometown: Minneapolis, Minnesota

Major: Environmental Studies: Policy, concentration in Administrative Science

Areas of interest: Carbon offsets, emissions trading

Relevant work experience:

- Intern, January 2010; Barclays Capital, Environmental Markets in London
- Intern, Summer 2009; City of Lakes Nordic Ski Foundation, Tri-Loppet Director in Minneapolis
- Intern, Summer 2008; Wells Fargo Private Bank, Wealth Management Group in Minneapolis



Chris Englert

Class Year: 2010

Hometown: North Woodstock, New Hampshire

Majors: Environmental Studies: Policy; Geology

Areas of Interest: Coastal geology & mapping, renewable energy, green business

Relevant Work Experience:

- Intern, Summer 2009; Coastal Sediments, Hydrodynamics, & Engineering Lab, University of Delaware; Research Experience for Undergraduates

Rivers and Dams: The post-WWII, baby-boomer era saw federal and state agencies striving to keep pace with the country's demand for water and electricity. Numerous hydroelectric and flood control dams were constructed throughout the country into the 1970's, often with little research into their long term effects upon the river ecosystems. Today, as many of these dams are reaching the end of their life cycle, an important question has arisen: Should these dams be relicensed, abandoned, or removed? Removal has become an increasingly viable option, though as yet relatively few dams have actually been breached. The policy and environmental implications of removal, however, are extremely germane topics in today's world.



Sam Brakeley

Class Year: 2010

Hometown: Marblehead, Massachusetts

Major: Environmental Studies: Policy

Areas of Interests: River and land conservation, wind power

Relevant Work Experience:

- Intern, January 2009; Natural Resources Council of Maine
- Volunteer, Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary in Ipswich, MA



Zachary Ezor

Class Year: 2010

Hometown: Atlanta, Georgia

Major: Environmental Studies: Policy; Government

Areas of Interests: Environmental negotiation, national and state parks

Relevant Work Experience:

- Intern, Summer 2009; Atlanta BeltLine Inc., Public Transportation
- Researcher, Spring 2009; Kampala, Uganda, Primary Independent Study of Rural Electrification in Uganda
- Member, 2008; Colby College, Environmental Advisory Group
- Intern, Summer 2007; Captain Planet Foundation

Organic Agriculture: Organic agriculture is one of the fastest growing segments of agriculture in the U.S., increasing rapidly since the passage of national organic certification standards. Organic agriculture has both environmental and human health benefits, as well as economic advantages. Additionally, other forms of alternative agriculture such as local and sustainable are intertwined with organic and are also important to consider for their environmental and economic benefits. Examining factors that influence organic production, and also local and sustainable farming practices, will help policy makers in Maine and other states to promote alternative agricultural practices and assist farmers in the transition from conventional to organic farming methods.



Emily Boone

Class Year: 2010

Hometown: Washington, D.C.

Major: Environmental Studies: Policy; Economics

Areas of interest: Renewable energy, human rights and the environment, sustainable development

Relevant work experience:

- Research Assistant, September 2008-present; Oak Institute for the Study of International Human Rights, Colby College
- Volunteer, Summer 2009; World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms, WWOOF
- Researcher, Spring 2009; SIT World Learning: Amazon Resource Management and Human Ecology
- Intern, January 2008; CARANA Corporation



Megan Browning

Class Year: 2010

Hometown: New York City

Major: Environmental Studies: Policy

Areas of interest: Organic agriculture, environmental education, sustainable cities

Relevant work experience

- Intern, January 2009, Cloud Institute for Sustainability Education, New York City
- Green Team Department Head, Summer 2008, Windsor Mountain International Summer Camp

Sustainable Cities: Towns and cities across the country have a newfound interest in addressing sustainability issues in an effort to cut costs and respond to citizen demands for reduced environmental impacts of municipal governments. Maine municipalities face unique challenges to keeping budgets low in the face of rising energy and waste disposal costs, especially due an energy-inefficient building stock, high transportation and road maintenance costs, and dwindling landfill space. Successful policies and public participation can help shape the kinds of communities necessary for the future, and provide helpful examples for other towns and cities striving for sustainability.



Steve Erario

Class Year: 2010

Hometown: Wilton, Connecticut

Major: Environmental Studies: Policy

Areas of interest: Energy and climate change, waste and recycling, community-driven sustainability

Relevant work experience:

- Intern Coordinator, Summer 2009; Colby College, Sustain Mid-Maine Summer Intern Project
- Member, 2007-2009; Colby College, Environmental Advisory Group
- Intern, Nov 2008; Australian Capital Territory Chief Minister's Department, Green Steps Waste Reduction Consultant
- Intern, January 2008; Maine Department of Environmental Protection Office of Innovation, Governor's Carbon Challenge Program
- Intern, Summer 2007; City of Waterville, Waterville Sustainability Project
- Intern Team Leader, 2004-2006; Earthplace Nature Center, Community Water Quality Monitoring Project



Meghan Grogan

Class Year: 2010

Hometown: Simsbury, CT

Major: Environmental Studies with an emphasis on Policy; minor: Music

Areas of Interests: Environmental education, sustainable communities, organic agriculture

Relevant Work Experience:

- Intern, 2008-2009; Holcomb Farm Learning Center, Link and Learn Program
- Researcher, Spring 2009; Sydney, Australia, Independent Study of Community Gardens in the Sydney Metropolitan Area