

Sunrise County Economic Council Board of Directors, 2008

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Sunrise County Economic Council Staff

Harold Clossey, Executive Director
Jennifer Peters, Program Manager
Debbie Archer, Finance Manager
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Building a Brighter Future!



Sunrise County Economic Council

Serving the economic and community development needs of
Washington County since 1993

Sunrise County Economic Council

2008 Annual Report of Activities

**Celebrating 15 Years of
Innovation!**



*Initiating and facilitating the creation of
prosperity and jobs in Washington County*



Sunrise County Economic Council

PO Box 679, Machias, ME 04654
www.sunrisecounty.org

Dear Fellow Citizens of Washington County,

Sunrise County Economic Council (SCEC) is happy to commemorate fifteen years of initiating and facilitating the creation of jobs and prosperity in Washington County. SCEC works diligently with numerous partner community organizations, boards and commissions to encourage continual development of our infrastructure, economy and Down East way of life.

I am pleased to report that SCEC has welcomed 50 new donors as part of our 2008 Annual Campaign. Even though times are tenuous at best, people recognize that Washington County's economy can only be strengthened from within, and then only by working together with many others who approach its weaknesses with many different perspectives.

We thank the Washington County Commissioners for being tireless advocates of economic and community development initiatives. We thank our donors for their unwavering support, and, most importantly, we thank the businesspeople and communities for making Washington County a great place to live, work and play.

Sincerely,

Edwin S. Plissey
Chairman
SCEC Board of Directors

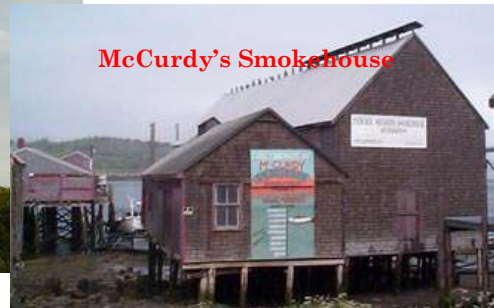
Opportunities to find deeper powers within ourselves come when life seems most challenging.

Joseph Campbell

Over the Years



A Few Projects



A letter from the Executive Director

I am very pleased to offer my congratulations to Sunrise County Economic Council on its 15th Anniversary!

Started in 1993 through a grass-roots effort by concerned citizens, SCEC can be proud of the vital role it is still playing in economic and community development issues across Washington County. As the only full time economic development agency whose sole focus is Washington County, SCEC's work includes four main program areas: developing businesses, assisting communities, investing in people, and ensuring excellence.

SCEC's theme for this 15th Anniversary celebration is "Building a Brighter Future." We strongly believe that by working collaboratively with public and private entities, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and local people who care, a brighter future lies ahead for us all... a future that is certain to offer many changes, challenges and opportunities.

2008 has been an uncertain year across our country, with even more uncertainties ahead as the nation struggles to right itself of recent economic instability and upheaval. In spite of these challenges, several bright spots have occurred in Washington County. A few examples:

- ☆ last November, a Canadian market research firm, Acrobat Research chose Calais as its first entry point into the United States, employing approximately 70 full time and 36 part time employees
- ☆ First Wind built a 38 tower wind farm in northern Washington County, due to go online in November 2008—with further expansion plans underway
- ☆ Axiom Technologies has received over \$600,000 in grant funds to expand broadband to over 90% of our county
- ☆ the new third bridge in Calais is nearly complete - one of the largest infrastructure changes on our landscape in decades
- ☆ Ocean Renewable Power Company successfully deployed and tested a prototype tidal powered turbine, resulting in positive outcomes that support tidal power's feasibility and viability



These are only a few of many exciting examples of a brighter future that is in reach for Washington County. A future only made possible by the citizens and leaders of our region working together.

SCEC values the support it receives from the residents and businesses of Washington County—without this vital support, SCEC could not be able to work to create an economic and community environment that we can all build upon, thrive in and prosper; ensuring, creating, and building a brighter future for all.

Harold W. Clossey
Executive Director

SCEC Primary Focus Areas

- ☆ **Developing Businesses**
- ☆ **Assisting Communities**
- ☆ **Investing in People**
- ☆ **Ensuring Excellence**

Developing Businesses

Developing businesses includes retention, expansion, and attraction—each has its own unique set of needs. SCEC meets these needs by offering a multitude of resources and information—all FREE and located here in Washington County through our Sunrise Business Support Center and our partners. Using our knowledge of Washington County and understanding of the economic climate, we help business owners and entrepreneurs navigate to success.

Success Story: SCEC worked in collaboration with the City of Calais and others to attract Acrobat Research, a Canadian market research firm, to Calais - creating over 100 jobs, expanding the local tax base and inserting dollars into the local economy. Pictured below, Acrobat's day shift is a busy and active place!



Assisting Communities

We assist local leadership to address local issues and to encourage regional cooperation to bolster wide-spread prosperity. Through our Municipal Technical Assistance Program, and in close collaboration with the Washington County Council of Governments (WCCOG), this initiative provides direct services to communities, including website development, project management, grant writing, grassroots economic development planning and implementation, CDBG technical assistance, and problem solving.

Success Story: In collaboration with WCCOG, Washington County: One Community, Washington County government, and others, Axiom Technologies successfully developed and submitted a ConnectME proposal which secured two grants for \$600,000 to expand broadband coverage to over 90% of Washington County.

Investing in People

Above all, Washington County is only as good as its people. Strong, capable, and informed people build better communities. SCEC works to build leadership at all levels—from youth to adult—by encouraging and supporting educational success. SCEC offers several leadership and scholarship opportunities with programs ranging from our flagship Washington County Leadership



Institute to the youth leadership institute program which is now being developed. We are secure in our belief that training tomorrow's leaders today will result in more vibrant and informed communities.

Success Stories:

- ☆ *Thanks to the Eaton Foundation SCEC provides full scholarships for young adults (18-29) to be able to participate in Certified Nurses Aide (three) and Certified Residential Medications Aide (seven) training, thus ensuring career enhancement and ability to work in the health field, the largest sector of employment in Washington County.*
- ☆ *SCEC, in collaboration with Washington County: One Community, Down East Teen Leadership Camp, the EdGE Program, Down East RC&D, Greenland Point Center and Maine Rural Partners submitted a successful proposal to the USDA resulting in a \$179,000 grant to support youth leadership in Washington County.*

Ensuring Excellence

No man, nor organization, is an island. SCEC works to empower organizations that are playing critical roles in the development and advancement of Washington County by providing affordable services such as administrative assistance, financial and bookkeeping services, project management, and website creation and maintenance. These services assist organizational capacity building by ensuring more resources are available for direct services rather than overhead, allowing these organizations to focus on programs, not administration.

As part of ensuring excellence within our region, the Opportunity Fund allows SCEC to respond to immediate needs and opportunities that typically have no direct funding mechanism such as research, public outreach and education, project management and coordination, facilitation of resources and packaging. Business retention, expansion, and attraction work are also funded through SCEC's Opportunity Fund, allowing staff to develop and build productive relationships that will foster economic development opportunities Down East.

Success Story: The Opportunity Fund allowed SCEC to be part of a local effort to create the first ever County-wide Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) district in Maine. Working in close conjunction with County Commissioners, County Manager, Washington County Legislative Delegation, First Wind and others, the TIF received approval by the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development. As a result, over \$2,300,000 (over 20 years) will be available for dedicated economic development in Washington County's Unorganized Territories.