

10-28-2008

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Recommended Citation

Sterndale, Amy, "24 Energy Leaders In Maine, Vt., N.H. Are Carsey Policy Leadership Fellows" (2008). *UNH Today*. 573.
<https://scholars.unh.edu/news/573>

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24 Energy Leaders In Maine, Vt., N.H. Are Carsey Policy Leadership Fellows

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October 28, 2008

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DURHAM, N.H. - The Carsey Institute at the University of New Hampshire opened its third year of the Policy Leadership Initiative this week with 24 leading practitioners working to address energy issues faced by low-income families in communities in Vermont, Maine, and New Hampshire. This year's fellows will work together to strengthen the collective capacity of northern New England to advance policies that help support families and communities in the region.

The fellows spend three days at the New England Center in Durham this week in a residential seminar where they work with other regional leaders addressing low-income energy issues faced by families in communities across Northern New England.

The 2008 Carsey Policy Leadership Fellows and partners are:

Maine

Policy liaison: Kit St John, Maine Center for Economic Policy, Augusta, Maine

Fellows:

- Greg Payne - development officer, AVESTA Housing and Maine Housing Coalition, Portland, Maine
- Dylan Voorhees - energy project director, Natural Resources Council of Maine, Augusta, Maine
- Peter Arnold - sustainability coordinator, Chewonki Foundation, Wiscasset, Maine
- Michael Stoddard - deputy director, Environment Northeast, Portland, Maine
- Connie Garber - transportation director, York County Community Action Program, Sanford, Maine
- Fenwick Fowler - executive director, Western Maine Community Action Program, East Wilton, Maine
- Charlie Newton - executive director, Penquis Community Action Program, Bangor, Maine
- Sara Gagne' Holmes - executive director, Maine Equal Justice, Augusta, Maine
- Sara Trafton - assistant director for resource development, York County Community Action Program, Sanford, Maine
- Lisa Pohlmann - deputy director, Natural Resources Council of Maine, Augusta, Maine

New Hampshire

Policy liaison: Amy Ignatius, New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning, Concord

Fellows:

- Roger Stephenson, executive vice president for programs, Clean Air Cool Planet, Portsmouth

- Dick Henry - executive director, The Jordan Institute, Portsmouth
- Van Chesnut - executive director, Advance Transit, Wilder, Vt.
- Meredith Hatfield - consumer advocate, New Hampshire Office of Consumer Advocate, Concord
- Thomas Blonski, president & CEO, New Hampshire Catholic Charities, Manchester
- John Tobin, executive director, New Hampshire Legal Assistance, Concord
- Don LaTourette - co-owner, Building Energy Technologies, Concord
- Rolanda Duchesne - executive director, United Way of Northern New Hampshire, Berlin
- Gabe Zoerheide - director, Upper Valley Transportation Management Association, White River Junction, Vt.

Vermont

Policy liaisons: Paul Cillo, Public Assets Institute, Montpelier, Vt.

Gus Seelig, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, Montpelier, Vt.

Fellows:

- Scott Johnstone - executive director, Efficiency Vermont, Burlington, Vt.
- Tim Searles - executive director Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity, Burlington, Vt.
- Avram Patt - general manager, Washington Electric Cooperative, East Montpelier, Vt.
- Karen Lafayette - legislative advocate, Vermont Low Income Advocacy Council, Burlington, Vt.
- Erhard Mahnke - coordinator, Affordable Housing, Burlington, Vt.
- Paul Zabriskie - weatherization programs director, Central Vermont Community Action Council, Barre, Vt.
- Patricia Crocker, Woodstock, Vt.
- Robert Dostis - director of customer service and external affairs, Green Mountain Power, Colchester, Vt.

"Home energy and transportation costs are critical issues in northern New England," said Carsey Institute director Mil Duncan. "Citizens and leaders across the region are wrestling with both how to preserve our quality of life and how to make it possible for low and moderate income families to live in places where energy costs are rising dramatically. The leaders selected as the 2008 Policy Leadership Fellows in this third year of our initiative are making real strides on these tough issues. The Carsey Institute looks forward to working with them and their colleagues over the next year to widen the dialogue and expand our tool box of solutions for both housing equity and conservation."

This work will be led by Andrea Colnes, director of Carsey's Policy Leadership Initiative. The initiative is supported by the Jane's Trust, with additional support for participants from the Maine Community Foundation, The New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, and the Vermont Community Foundation.

The Carsey Institute conducts research and analysis on the challenges facing families and communities in New Hampshire, New England, and the nation. The Carsey Institute sponsors independent, interdisciplinary research that documents trends and conditions affecting families and communities, providing valuable information and analysis to policymakers, practitioners, the media, and the general public. Through this work, the Carsey Institute contributes to public dialogue on policies that encourage social mobility and sustain healthy, equitable communities.

The Carsey Institute was established in May 2002 with a generous gift from UNH alumna and noted television producer Marcy Carsey.

