



Seeking Pro Bono Peer Reviewers for Maine Mercury Thermostat Inventory Study

Summary: The Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) seeks reputable statisticians or economists to evaluate the statistical methods and outcomes from a 2015 mercury thermostat inventory study that estimates the number of mercury thermostats remaining on the walls of homes and businesses in Maine, and the number coming off of the walls each year. As an advocacy organization, peer reviews of the study are a critical part of passing legislation that could improve Maine's mercury thermostat collection rates. A link to the study can be found [here](#).

Background: This study is the only one of its kind in Maine, and our current mercury thermostat statute has collection goals based on best-guess estimates of mercury thermostats using outdated 2000 census data. The study was completed by Skumatz Economic Research Association (SERA) and NRCM participated in the validation work. SERA produced this type of study in CA, RI, and IL and is currently working on similar studies for VT and NY. Peer reviews of the IL and CA studies may be helpful in developing an analysis of the Maine study.

Scope of work:

- Review the statistical methods used in the SERA report and evaluate the validity
- Review peer reviews of the IL and CA studies and address any relations/concerns with the ME study
- Write a 1-2 page report describing findings and recommendations that NRCM can use to defend the study from possible industry efforts to discredit it

Qualifications:

- Advanced degree in statistics or economics
- Peer review experience
- Ability to donate time and can complete the review by Oct. 1

To apply: Please send a brief letter of interest and resume by September 8th to Sarah Lakeman, NRCM's Sustainable Maine Project Director at slakeman@nrcm.org. Call her at 207-430-0170 with any questions or to learn more.

[The Natural Resources Council of Maine](#) is a nonprofit membership organization protecting, restoring, and conserving Maine's environment, now and for future generations. We work to improve the quality of Maine's rivers, lakes, and streams; to promote sustainable communities through initiatives that reduce toxic pollution and the impacts of waste; to decrease air and climate-changing pollution, and to conserve Maine lands, including our treasured North Woods. NRCM was created by Maine people, for the benefit of all who love Maine. For more than 50 years, NRCM has led efforts to keep Maine a special place.