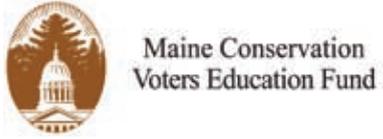


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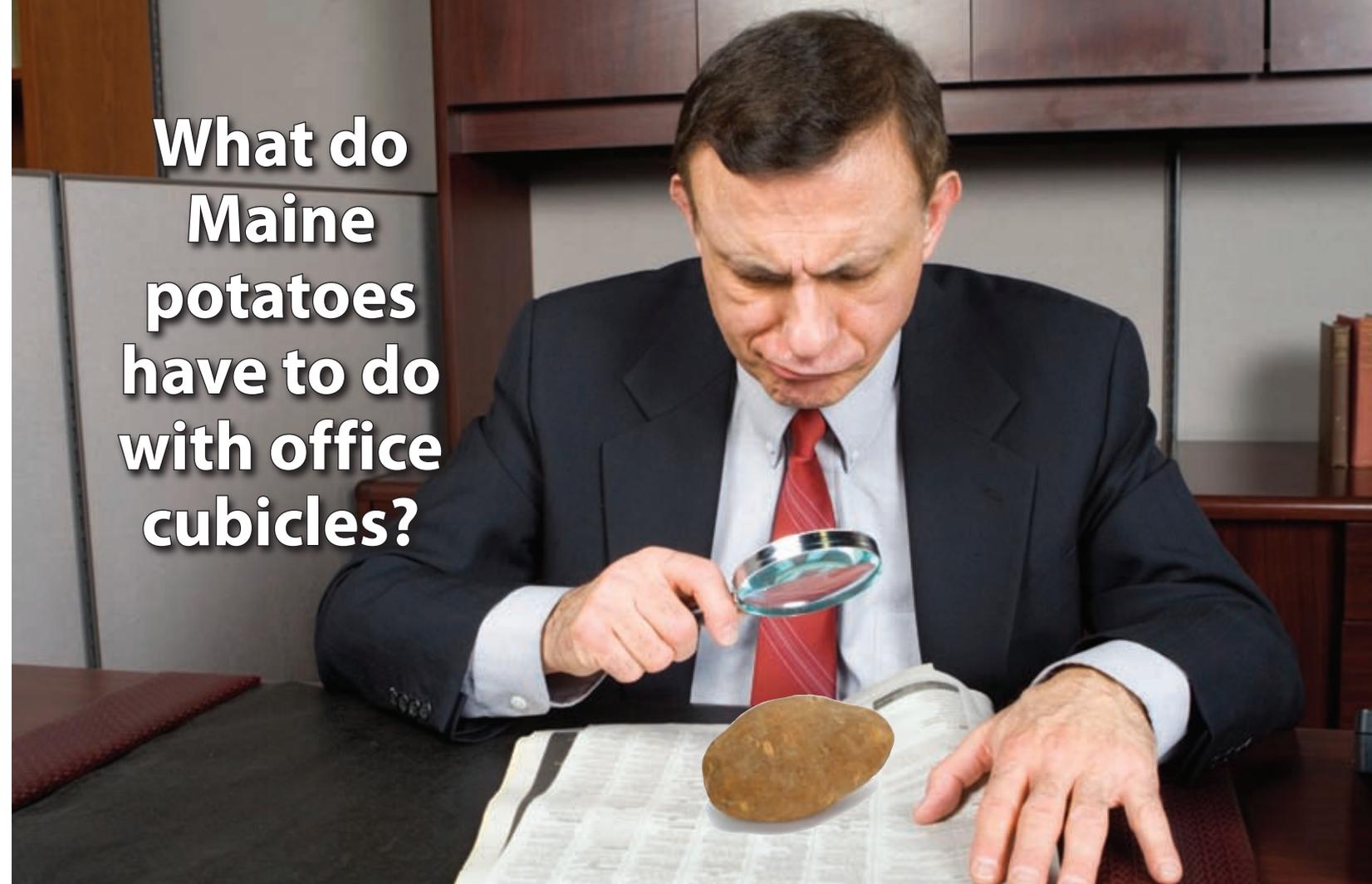
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Alliance for a
Clean and Healthy Maine

**Maine Conservation
Voters Education Fund**
295 Water Street, Suite 9
Augusta, ME 04330

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**What do
Maine
potatoes
have to do
with office
cubicles?**



Starchy plants, like potatoes, can be used to make petroleum free, sustainable textiles, including the fabric coverings for office cubicles.

Maine researchers, safer chemical advocates and businesses are working together to turn home-grown resources like potatoes and fiber from trees into nontoxic, sustainable sources of plastic. This 'Green Chemistry' initiative designs chemical products and processes that reduce or eliminate the use and creation of hazardous substances.

Investing in research and development of safer, environmentally friendly products creates jobs and opens markets for Maine businesses.

“We have gained a market advantage by committing our company to the elimination of toxic materials and development of increasingly sustainable alternatives. We currently have a fabric line that is made from polylactic acid (PLA) derived from corn. We would love to say in the future that we make fabric in Maine from Maine potatoes.

— Stacie Beyer, *Corporate Environmental Manager, True Textiles (formerly Interface Fabric), Guilford, Maine*



Who knew potatoes could build a better future?



WHAT POLICY MAKERS CAN DO

We don't have to choose between good health, a clean environment, and a strong economy.

In fact, they go hand-in-hand. As a candidate for public office, we need you to protect Maine's competitive edge in the emerging green economy. Please ensure that research and development funds are available for innovative, sustainable product development that can help speed replacement of dangerous chemicals with safer alternatives.

When products are made safely and sustainably, we all benefit.

Market demand for "green" products has risen sharply in recent years.

Worldwide, the market for bioplastics is projected to reach \$50 billion by 2015. If Maine companies captured and supplied even 1% of this market, the Maine bioplastics industry share would total \$500 million.

Safer products can help eliminate exposures to toxic chemicals that account for \$55 billion per year in children's health care costs in the U.S.

For more information, please visit www.cleanandhealthyme.org