



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the
NH Department of Environmental Services

March 2012

The Municipal EcoLink, is a monthly e-bulletin designed to inform you of the latest environmental ideas, trends, grants, rules and more from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES). We respectfully request that the following is read into the minutes of your municipal committees, councils and boards. Please feel free to post it on your municipal website as well. Read *Municipal EcoLink* at: <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/newsletters/ecolink/index.htm>.

March 22 "Designing a Healthier Classroom for Tomorrow's Students" Webinar

Why consider health when designing a classroom? Recent research suggests that a school's physical environment can play a major role in academic performance. Problems with leaky roofs, heating and cooling systems, insufficient cleaning or excessive use of cleaning chemicals are issues that are generally targeted as major triggers for a host of health problems including asthma and allergies that increase absenteeism and reduce academic performance. Join us for a webinar to learn about how to use the EPA "Tools for Schools" program, which every school in NH is required to have a copy of at every school. The Tools for Schools program uses simple no cost or low cost improvements that can help enhance academic performance, as well as teacher and staff productivity and retention. The webinar is Thursday, March 22, 11 am to 12 pm; superintendents, business officials, principals, facility managers, custodians, nurses, teachers, school board members and parents are encouraged to participate. Register now at:

http://www.nhlgc.org/calendar/ViewItem.html?integral=0&detail=0&cal_item_id=511&dtwhen=2456009&style_sheet=userStyle.css&checkafter=1330450706390

March 23 Watershed Conference at Plymouth State U.

The 2012 New Hampshire Water and Watershed Conference is designed to meet the information and networking needs of municipal board and staff members; elected officials; local and regional planners; scientists; educators; consultants; students; lake, river and watershed groups; environmental organizations; volunteer monitors; and policy makers. Co-sponsored by DES, PSU and many others. For more information, contact June Hammond Rowan at the Center for the Environment, Plymouth State University (603) 535-3179, or go to

<http://www.plymouth.edu/center-for-the-environment/2012-nh-water-watershed-conference/>

March 31 Local Energy Solutions Conference for Local Governments in Penacook

The Fourth Annual Local Energy Solutions Conference will be held Saturday, March 31 at Merrimack Valley High School in Penacook. Sponsored by the New Hampshire Local Energy Working Group, the conference provides critical resources for local governments and school districts across the state. Hear from your peers, learn from energy experts working in the field, visit the diverse exhibitors and address your energy related questions to those already navigating this complex field. See <http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/les2012/> for more details.

DES Solid Waste Operator Certification Program Renewal Process Improved

The Solid Waste Operator Certification Program has improved the renewal process for solid waste operator certification. The operators now receive a reminder that it is time to renew when their own personalized renewal form arrives in the mail. The operators should update any of the information on the form, and send the form with verification of 2.5 hours of continuing education and a check for \$50. If the package arrives after the expiration date, the law requires a late fee of an additional \$25. The form is mailed to their home address, so town officials may want to let their operators know to look for it when their renewal date is coming up. Additional information on the solid waste operator certification program is available at

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/swrtas/index.htm>

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