



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

February 2015

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 (NHDES). We respectfully request that the following is electronically distributed or otherwise made available to your municipal committees, councils and boards. Please feel free to post it on your municipal website as well. You may read past issues at [The Municipal EcoLink](#)

NHDES Snow Disposal Guidelines Fact Sheet Updated

With so much snow this winter, it is important to remember that the debris and contaminants that inevitably end up in plowed snow make it illegal to dump snow directly into water bodies. NHDES has updated their Snow Disposal Guidelines Fact Sheet for siting legal snow dumps and protecting New Hampshire waters. For more information about snow storage or concerns about anyone dumping snow in water, contact the NHDES Watershed Management Bureau at (603) 271-3398 or check out the fact sheet at:

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/wmb/documents/wmb-3.pdf>

Alert for General State Permit for Emergency Generators

NHDES has changed the reporting and fee requirements for facilities currently permitted under the General State Permit (GSP) for Emergency Generators. Effective immediately, owners/operators do NOT need to submit an annual emissions report nor pay the emission based fee for the previous year, which has historically been due by April 15. More information is available at:

http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/pehb/apps/permit_air_emissions_gsp_eq.htm

New Guidance on Potable Well Water Available from NHDES

NHDES recently published a new guide to help municipalities clarify a minimum standard for "potable water" within their building codes. Potable water is currently required for all housing in New Hampshire per the State Building Code and according to the code it must be "*free from impurities in amounts sufficient to cause disease and harmful physiological effects.*" Often municipalities adopt the State Building Code and the code's potable definition has been interpreted differently leading to questions about what *potable water* means and how municipalities permit new housing to meet that requirement. The new guidance suggests municipalities adopt into their local codes a refined potable water definition requiring a minimum set of water tests be done for contaminants commonly found in NH's groundwater, like arsenic and bacteria. To be considered potable, untreated well water would need to meet health-based drinking water standards set by NHDES or US EPA for eight contaminants or treat the water to remove those contaminants by installing a water treatment system. To learn more, download the new guidance from NHDES's website at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/publications/wd/documents/wd-15-1.pdf>

Training opportunity for professional landscapers

Training opportunity for professional landscapers, built upon UNHCE's Previous *Landscaping at the Water's Edge* curriculum, to include design and installation of stormwater management practices suitable for small sites, such as rain gardens and dry wells, as well as drainage and site considerations. More information will soon be available at <http://extension.unh.edu/Sustainable-Landscapes-and-Turf/Landscaping-Waters-Edge> For more information on Soak Up the Rain NH, visit the program website at www.soaknh.org

Subsurface Systems Program Electronic Permitting (ePermitting)

NHDES is pleased to announce that the Subsurface Systems Program ePermitting system, an on-line system for processing all subsurface applications, will be available for use STARTING FEBRUARY 1, 2015. All municipalities will receive a letter from NHDES discussing the process by which those municipalities that have chosen to require prior local approval in accordance with RSA-A:32, II can manage the approval process. For further information, please contact Robert Tardif at (603) 271-2904 or robert.tardif@des.nh.gov

Training Opportunities for Solid Waste Facility Operators

NHDES has populated the first six months of the 2015 schedule of workshops for solid waste facility operators; a couple of which are new. These workshops may be used to renew solid waste facility operator certification and accumulate continuing professional development hours. The schedule is available at

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/swrtas/workshop.htm> If you want to sign up for a workshop, please call (603) 271-2925.

NHDES is offering Basic Training on Thursday, March 5, 2015 from 8:30 AM-2:30 PM, with the exam following the training. If you want to attend Basic Training, please complete the Initial Application for Solid Waste Facility Operator Certification available at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/swrtas/opcert.htm> and submit it to NHDES along with the required \$50 fee. If you have any questions, please call (603) 271-2925.

Annual Solid Waste Facility Reports (One Hour Mini Workshop)

March 12, NHDES is offering a NEW workshop designed for Solid Waste Facility Operators who are responsible for completing a 2014 Annual Facility Report (AFR) for their solid waste facility. Attendees will work in small groups to complete their AFR with the help of an instructor. Attendees should bring waste and recyclable receipts and shipment records, a list of employees and certification status, and a copy of the facility's permit. It is recommended that attendees also bring a copy of their 2013 AFR. Other paperwork may be needed to complete the 2014 AFR, so before the workshop, attendees should review the current AFR forms at: <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/swmb/css/categories/forms.htm>

The workshop is being offered three times: from 8:30-9:30am, 11:30am-12:30pm and from 2:00-3:00pm. The workshop time will count toward continuing professional development.

Attend the joint New England Association of Environmental Biologists (NEAEB) & NH Water and Watershed Conference

This year, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), with assistance from United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) and NEIWPCC, is partnering with Plymouth State University: Center for the Environment to host a joint water resource meeting. The traditional NEAEB meeting will be combined with the annual New Hampshire Water and Watershed conference to offer a unique opportunity to water resource professionals, environmental researchers, lake and river volunteers, watershed organizations, and municipal officials to share their knowledge and experiences in a fully integrated agenda.

Meeting Information

Date: March 18-20, 2015

Location: Attitash Grand Summit Hotel & Resort, Bartlett, NH

Registration information available at: <http://www.epa.gov/region1/neaeb2015/registration.html>

2015 Local Energy Solutions Conference

The 2015 Local Energy Solutions Conference will be held March 21, 2015 at the Grappone Center in Concord, NH. Brought to you by the New Hampshire Local Energy Work Group, with coordination by NH Sustainable Energy Association, the annual LES Conference provides critical resources, information, and guidance for local governments and school districts across the state seeking to implement an energy reduction project in their municipality. The conference provides an ideal forum to meet and learn from other New Hampshire residents who have successfully implemented an energy project, hear best practices, identify financing options, and much, much more! <http://lesconference.nhenergy.org/>

Important Recycling Information

The NH Department of Administrative Services has recently contracted with Complete Recycling Solutions to provide recycling services for fluorescent lamps, ballasts, dry cell batteries and mercury devices. This is a change in vendor, and municipal officials should contact the new vendor to take advantage of the state-negotiated pricing structure. A link to the new contract can be found on the NHDES Household Hazardous Waste page:

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/p2au/pps/hhwp/categories/publications.htm#municipalities>
Under "Municipalities," click on "State Recycling Contract."

Reminder: Restrictions on the type of materials that can be burned in Outside Fires

NHDES encourages municipalities to remind homeowners and businesses that there are restrictions on the types of material that can be burned in outside fires. It is unlawful to burn items such as: construction and demolition debris, household trash, tires, furniture, or any kind of painted, treated, or glued wood.

Burning these materials releases toxic air pollutants, creates potentially hazardous ash, and puts your family, neighbors, and the environment at risk. Therefore, these restrictions are effective all year regardless of rain or snow cover.

Materials acceptable for burning include: brush less than five inches in diameter originating on-site, clean lumber scraps, originating on-site, campfire wood, charcoal and clean wood pallets.

For more information on what materials are acceptable for burning, you can contact the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services at 271-5629, or visit DES.NH.GOV and click on "Open Burning" under the A to Z topics list.

Please send your comments for the editor to editor@des.nh.gov To receive press releases and other publications of the NH Department of Environmental Services via e-mail, please sign up at www.des.nh.gov/media/enews/index.htm