



## The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

November 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](#)

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### Salt Applicator Certification Training Sessions

If you are concerned about winter maintenance practices on private parking lots polluting local waterbodies with road salt this winter, consider promoting the UNH Green SnowPro training and NHDES Salt Applicator Certification Program with commercial and municipal salt applicators in your community. Training attendees are eligible to become Certified Salt Applicators by NHDES and receive liability protection from ice-related slip and fall cases. The training focuses on how to apply salt in the most efficient manner. Certified participants using best management practices and keeping proper records - or property owners who hire them - are not liable for damages arising from snow or ice. Upcoming trainings are being held December 1 and 11. For information and registration: <http://www.t2.unh.edu/green-snowpro-training-and-certification> or call (603) 271-5329.

### Asset Management Planning Grant Program

The NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau is pleased to announce the fourth round of the Asset Management Planning Grant program. This grant is intended to assist community water systems in developing an asset management plan. The program will provide community water systems a 50% matching grant up to \$15,000 to conduct asset management initiatives. Applications will be accepted until December 4, 2015. Eligible systems include Community Water Systems serving a population of 500 or greater. An information packet and application are available on the DWGB website at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/asset-managment/index.htm> under Grant/Loans. Feel free to contact Luis Adorno at (603) 271-2472 or [luis.adorno@des.nh.gov](mailto:luis.adorno@des.nh.gov) if you have any questions or would like to discuss your proposal.

### Electric Vehicle Charging Station Rebate is BACK!

NHDES is once again offering rebates to businesses and municipalities to offset the costs of installing public access electric vehicle charging stations. Visit <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/drive-electric/index.htm> for more information on the NH Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Rebate Program and to download the application.

### Funding available through NH's Clean Diesel Program

NHDES is accepting proposals for partial reimbursement of diesel engine repower/replacement, vehicle replacement, fuel conversion and other diesel emissions-reducing projects. Diesel vehicles, trains, buses, marine vessels, construction equipment, trucks and non-road vehicles and generators are eligible. Restrictions apply. For more information on this program, view the "Hot Topics" section of NHDES' "Diesel and Equipment" page: <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/tsb/tps/msp/diesel-vehicles/index.htm>

### Energy Efficiency Assistance for Municipal Wastewater Treatment Facilities

Did you know that the largest energy user in your community is probably your wastewater treatment facility? NHDES is putting together a three-year program to help communities improve energy efficiency at WWTFs thanks to a grant from US Department of Energy. NHDES is partnering with NH Office of Energy and Planning and the NH CORE Utilities (Eversource, Unitil, Liberty Utilities and NH Electric Coop) to bring electric use benchmarking, workshops, one-on-one technical assistance and energy audits to municipally-owned WWTFs. The NH CORE Utilities and NHDES will be requesting municipal signatures on release forms for WWTF electric use data so that we can develop the electric use benchmarks for each WWTF. Grant work is anticipated to begin in January 2016. For more information, contact Sharon Rivard at [Sharon.rivard@des.nh.gov](mailto:Sharon.rivard@des.nh.gov) or 603 271-2508.

### NPDES Electronic Reporting Rule News

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Electronic Reporting Rule was published in the Federal Register on October 22, 2015 with an effective date on December 21, 2015

(<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-10-22/html/2015-24954.htm> ). The rule requires the electronic reporting and sharing of Clean Water Act NPDES program information instead of the current paper-based reporting of this information. This action will save time and resources for permittees, states, tribes, territories and the US Government while increasing data accuracy, improving compliance and supporting EPA's goal of providing better protection of the nation's waters. By modernizing this Clean Water Act reporting program, permittees and regulators will use existing, available information technology to electronically report information and data related to the NPDES permit program. More information is available on the EPA website: <http://www2.epa.gov/compliance/final-national-pollutant-discharge-elimination-system-npdes-electronic-reporting-rule>

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