



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

April 2016

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](#)

New OneStop Data Mapper

NHDES is pleased to announce the new OneStop Data Mapper, an easy-to-use, interactive mapping tool displaying environmental data. The new tool replaces the existing OneStop Web GIS viewer and is maintained by NHDES and NH GRANIT. Access the Mapper through the OneStop GIS website at <http://www2.des.state.nh.us/gis/onestop/>.

NHDES Drinking Water Source Protection Conference in Concord – May 11

Register to attend the 2016 NHDES Drinking Water Source Protection Conference on May 11 from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm at the Grappone Conference Center, Concord, NH. This event will feature scientists, state and federal officials, and water supply managers, who will present their work and views on a range of topics, including statewide surface water quality trends, climate change impacts on water resources, research on contaminants of emerging concern, and case studies that highlight successful local efforts to protect drinking water. To view the full agenda and register, visit the American Ground Water Trust website at www.agwt.org (click on the “Events” tab at the top of the page). For questions about the registration process, please contact Win Saltmarsh (wsaltmarsh@agwt.org or 603-228-5444) at the American Ground Water Trust. For other conference related questions, please contact Amy Hudnor (amy.hudnor@des.nh.gov or 603-271-2950) at NHDES.

Collecting Environmental Data?

NHDES houses environmental data such as river, lake, ambient air, biological, and habitat assessments in a central database. If you collect or are planning to collect data, consider connecting with us! Data in our central database is available to staff and the public, may be used in waterbody assessments, is backed up regularly to prevent data loss, and is available on our data mapper. We can also provide pre-collection technical and planning support. For more information please contact Melanie Titus at melanie.titus@des.nh.gov.

Green Your Fleet!

Don't miss the transportation workshop and advanced technology truck show on June 10, 2016, at the New Hampshire Motor Speedway, Loudon, New Hampshire. This all-day workshop is free and open to the public, and features informative speakers, panels and breakout sessions. For more information and to register, visit: www.granitestatecleancities.nh.gov/documents/gyf2016.pdf.

Updated Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater Management

The NHDES Soak Up the Rain NH program recently updated the *New Hampshire Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater Management*. The guide contains step-by-step instructions for ten different practices that can be used on small sites to reduce stormwater runoff and pollution. <http://soaknh.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/NH-Homeowner-Guide-2016.pdf>

Lead in Drinking Water

Lead in drinking water has been a concern for several decades for NH municipal water suppliers, who commonly treat their water supplies to make them less corrosive and to minimize lead concentrations at the tap. In response to heightened governmental and public awareness about lead, underscored by events this year in Flint, MI, NHDES has continued to update NH communities on proposed rules changes expected from the USEPA. NHDES has also requested that community water suppliers update lead sampling protocols and prepare for more aggressive efforts to remove lead piping components from municipal distribution networks where these components still exist. More information can be found at the NHDES web site <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/lead-copper/index.htm>.

EPA Proposed Nitrogen Reduction Strategy for Long Island Sound (including the Connecticut River)

EPA is proposing a strategy to aggressively continue progress on reducing nitrogen pollution and achieve water quality standards throughout Long Island Sound (LIS) and its embayments and near shore coastal waters. The strategy recognizes that a comprehensive approach is needed to reduce nitrogen levels, further improve dissolved oxygen (DO) conditions, and address other nutrient-related impacts in Long Island Sound. One focus of the strategy will be to set nitrogen thresholds and allocations for large rivers that flow into LIS (including the Connecticut River). This will include an examination of all sources of nitrogen pollution, the setting of water quality thresholds, and consideration of appropriate regulatory and non-regulatory actions and programs to meet reduction targets. Nitrogen reduction targets may affect those in the Connecticut River watershed. See <http://longislandsoundstudy.net/issues-actions/water-quality/nitrogen-strategy/> for details on the strategy.

On May 12, 2016 from 1:00-2:30 PM, EPA is holding a public meeting at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, Large Conference Room, 60 Congress Street, Springfield, MA 01104 to discuss the strategy. The meeting will include a 30 minute presentation with 60 minutes for questions, discussion and feedback. For more information, contact Leah O'Neill, oneill.leah@epa.gov or 617-918-1633.

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