



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

April 2017

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](#)

National Drug Takeback Day is April 29

For information on the location of over 50 medicine drop boxes in New Hampshire or how to participate with dozens of other law enforcement agencies in the National Drug Takeback day on April 29, go to www.nh.gov/medsafety

2017 Drinking Water Source Protection Conference

Thursday, May 18, NHDES will hold its 2017 Drinking Water Source Protection Conference at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord, NH. This is the largest drinking water source protection event in New England! This year's conference will feature presentations on:

- PFCs and other emerging contaminants
- Land conservation and its benefits to drinking water source protection
- Status of the drought and efforts to manage its impacts

The conference fee is \$60 and includes lunch and refreshments. The conference qualifies for 5 Technical Credit Hours NH Water Works Operator Certification Program. REGISTER at American Ground Water Trust website: <https://agwt.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=239> *Registration questions?* Contact Win Saltmarsh at AGWT: wsaltmarsh@agwt.org or (603) 228-5444. *Other questions?* Contact Amy Hudnor at NHDES: amy.hudnor@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-2950.

NPDES General Permit for Wastewater Discharges Information

The national pollutant discharge elimination system (NPDES) general permit for wastewater discharges to surface waters from various water treatment processes at potable water treatment facilities (PWTF) was reissued by EPA and became effective March 6, 2017. For information on how to submit the required notice of intent (NOI) reapplication form for any such discharges, see the EPA's PWTF GP website at <https://www3.epa.gov/region1/npdes/pwtfgp.html>

Solid Waste Facility Workshops

NHDES is hosting a series of 5 solid waste workshops from April 6 through May 2 on a variety of topics pertinent for solid waste operators. Topics will cover proper management of Ewaste, Used Oil, Universal Waste, Meth Lab Waste and Burn Piles. Workshop descriptions, dates, times and locations can be found at <http://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/swrtas/workshop.htm>. There is no cost to the workshops, and attendees will be eligible for at least 2.5 hours of Continuing Professional Development hours towards their SW Operator certification. For more information or to register for a workshop, please contact the SWOT Coordinator at Tara.Albert@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-3713.

Water Use Registration and Reporting

Env-Wq 2102, rules governing Water Use Registration and Reporting, have been readopted with amendments, effective March 21, 2017. These rules apply to any cumulative water use that exceeds an average of 20,000 gallons of water per day in any 7-day period, or exceeds a total volume of 600,000 gallons in any 30-day period must be registered, measured, recorded and reported to NHDES. A copy of

these rules can be found at

<http://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/legal/rulemaking/documents/env-wq2102-adtpstd.pdf>

Visit and Document Your Town's Vernal Pools

Now that the snow is almost gone, this is the season for movement of certain amphibians to vernal pools. Check out [NHDES's web page on vernal pools](#), some new tools to help identify some of the species that are present, including a visual [Key to New Hampshire Vernal Pool Indicator Species - Aquatic Forms](#). You can report your town's vernal pools and species observed by using the [Vernal Pool Documentation Form](#) or going online to the [NH Wildlife Sightings](#) web tool for reporting wildlife observations in New Hampshire. Additional information on vernal pools and a link to the updated vernal pool manual, [Identifying and Documenting Vernal Pools in New Hampshire](#), may be found on the NH Fish and Game [website](#).

Annual Certification of Criminal Background Checks for Youth Skill Program Staff

New Hampshire Youth Skill Programs are annually required to conduct criminal background checks for any staff (owners, employees, and/or volunteers) that may be alone with any child or children. The requirement applies to all "youth skill camps" ("non-profit or for profit programs teaching a skill to children under 18 years of age") and covers any program designed to impart a specific skill over a period of three or more consecutive days. More information and a list of currently certified camps is available online at:

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/youth-skills/index.htm> If you have any questions, please contact Chip Mackey of the NH Youth Recreation Camp Licensing Program at (603) 271-0655 or chip.mackey@des.nh.gov.

Free Wastewater Treatment Facility Energy Audits

Did you know that wastewater treatment facilities are typically the highest energy user in most communities? Through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, NHDES is conducting comprehensive energy audits at selected wastewater treatment facilities. Results from the first four completed energy audits identify an average of 34% savings with a simple payback ranging from 0-3.9 years. If you have questions about a free comprehensive energy audit for your community's wastewater treatment facility, contact Sharon Rivard at 271-2508 or Sharon.rivard@des.nh.gov

Notice to Dam Owners and Operators

Dam owners and operators are encouraged to make more frequent visits to their dams to ensure that water levels are where they should be and that spillways and other outlets are free of debris and ready to handle spring runoff. It is also a good time to review and update Operation, Maintenance and Response forms (http://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dam/documents/omr_form.doc) and, if applicable, Emergency Action Plans

(<http://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dam/eap/index.htm>). If you have any questions, please contact the Dam Bureau at (603) 271-3406 or damsafety@des.nh.gov

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