



## The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

March 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](#)

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### **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 3 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](mailto:chip.mackey@des.nh.gov).

### **Notice to Solid Waste Facility Owners - 2016 Annual Facility Report Forms**

The 2016 Post-Closure Report (PCR) for inactive solid waste landfills has been posted on NHDES' website ([www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov)). NHDES revised the PCR form to simplify certain reporting requirements. If you have questions, please contact the Solid Waste Management Bureau at (603) 271-2925 or [solidwasteinfo@des.nh.gov](mailto:solidwasteinfo@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. Dept of Energy, NHDES is conducting comprehensive energy audits at selected wastewater treatment facilities. Results from the first 4 completed energy audits identify an average of 34% savings with a simple payback ranging from 0-3.9 years. If you have questions about getting a free comprehensive energy audit for your community's wastewater treatment facility, contact Sharon Rivard at 271-2508 or [Sharon.rivard@des.nh.gov](mailto:Sharon.rivard@des.nh.gov)

### **Food Waste Management Meeting/Discussion**

The Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRRA) and NHDES invite you and other interested stakeholders to participate in a meeting on March 15 to exchange information and discuss concerns about current food waste management practices in NH and the region, and alternatives for diverting food waste from being landfilled and incinerated, including composting and other methods. For more information on the meeting, please go to <http://www.des.nh.gov/calendar/documents/20170315-organics-stakeholder-meeting.pdf>

### **Notice to Dam Owners and Operators**

Regardless of the drier than normal conditions that the state has experienced over the past several months, a melting snowpack and spring rains could lead to higher stream flows and lake levels in the short term. 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](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](mailto:damsafety@des.nh.gov)

### **New Wetlands Mitigation Program Publication**

The Wetlands Mitigation Program has published a book - *Beyond the Beaver Dam: The Success of the NHDES Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund*. This publication highlights the success of the Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund program's 10 years of operation. This book can serve as a source of ideas for restoration and land protection projects in your community. From purchasing land conservation parcels, restoring wetlands and streams, or performing important tidal resource enhancements, these stories capture ways funds can be identified and used to improve or protect natural resources in your community.

### **Proposed Changes to Prior Local Approval for Septic Systems**

NHDES has proposed changes to RSA 485-A:32, II, to exempt applications for failed individual sewage disposal systems from the requirement to obtain prior local approval. The bill number addressing this proposal is HB 258. The law, bill language and status, and NHDES letter of testimony can be viewed at:

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/L/485-A/485-A-32.htm>

[http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill\\_status/Results.aspx?q=1&txtsessionyear=2017](http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/Results.aspx?q=1&txtsessionyear=2017)

<http://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/legal/testimony/2017/documents/hb258-20170118.pdf>

### **Funding for Diesel Vehicles and Equipment Replacement**

Funding is currently available for replacement of diesel vehicles and equipment. Proposals submitted prior to the close of business on the first Friday of the month will be evaluated that month. The Project Proposal Form is available on the Diesel Vehicles and Equipment page of the NHDES website at:

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/tsb/tps/msp/diesel-vehicles/index.htm>

### **Drought Information**

Problematic drought conditions will continue for New Hampshire residents throughout the winter. NHDES will continue to have information and resources available on the NHDES Drought Management Program webpage: <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dam/drought/index.htm>

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