



## The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

May 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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### 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](mailto:wsaltmarsh@agwt.org) or (603) 228-5444. *Other questions?* Contact Amy Hudnor at NHDES: [amy.hudnor@des.nh.gov](mailto:amy.hudnor@des.nh.gov) or (603) 271-2950.

### NH Coastal Viewer 101 for Land Conservation

Sign up for a hands-on training to learn how to use the [New Hampshire Coastal Viewer](#) to select and prioritize coastal watershed areas for land conservation. This training takes place on Wednesday, May 17, from 6-8 pm at the University of New Hampshire, Pettee Hall in Room G-18. Please register by Wednesday, May 10. Space is limited. There is a small fee of \$15 for N.H. Association of Conservation Commission members and \$20 for non-members, however the fee can be waived upon request. Light refreshments will be provided. This workshop is hosted by the NH Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program, NH GRANIT, and the NH Association of Conservation Commissions. Find out more and register at <http://www.nhcaw.org/nh-coastal-viewer-training-for-land-conservation-register-today/>

### Pre-applications for State Revolving Fund Projects

NHDES is soliciting pre-applications for drinking water, wastewater, stormwater and nonpoint source projects through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program. The SRF program is a low-interest loan program that assists communities with the planning, design and construction of eligible water pollution control infrastructure projects, and public water systems with the cost of improving drinking water infrastructure.

The CWSRF Pre-application is available at:

[http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/web/documents/srf\\_preapp.doc](http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/web/documents/srf_preapp.doc)

The DWSRF Pre-Application is available at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017DWSRF>

**All Pre-Applications are due by Friday, June 30.** For more information on CWSRF, contact Beth Malcolm at 271-2978 or [beth.malcolm@des.nh.gov](mailto:beth.malcolm@des.nh.gov) and for DWSRF, contact Johnna McKenna at 271-7017 or [johnna.mckenna@des.nh.gov](mailto:johnna.mckenna@des.nh.gov)

### **Solid Waste Operator Training (SWOT) Program**

The SWOT Program has added a Basic Training date to the calendar due to the increased number of applicants. The **NEW** date is July 26, 2017, in Concord with an available 40 seats. Please remember that all Solid Waste Operators must apply for certification within 30 days of hire. Continuing Professional Development summer workshops are also filling up quickly. Please contact Tara Mae Albert to register for the classes at [Tara.Albert@des.nh.gov](mailto:Tara.Albert@des.nh.gov) or (603) 271-3713. For more information on the SWOT Program, please go to <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/swmb/index.htm>

### **Diesel Emission Reduction Program Funds Available**

The USEPA has announced \$11 million in Diesel Emission Reduction Program (DERA) funds available to support projects aimed at reducing emissions from the nation's existing fleet of older diesel engines. Under this competition, between 20 and 80 awards are anticipated to be made to eligible applicants. Eligible applicants include regional, state, local or tribal agencies, or port authorities, with jurisdiction over transportation or air quality. Nonprofit organizations may apply if they provide pollution reduction or educational services to diesel fleet owners or have, as their principal purpose, the promotion of transportation or air quality.

Proposal packages must be submitted electronically to USEPA through [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov) no later than Tuesday, June 20, 2017, at 11:59 p.m. (EST) in order to be considered for funding. For more information including informational webinars and to access the RFP, see the [USEPA Clean Diesel National Grants website](http://USEPA Clean Diesel National Grants website).

NHDES is available to assist applicants in developing their application. Please contact Timothy White at [Timothy.White@des.nh.gov](mailto:Timothy.White@des.nh.gov) or (603) 271-5552.

### **Spring Cleanup: Restrictions on the type of materials that can be burned in outside fires**

With homeowners busy working on spring cleanup around the house, NHDES encourages municipalities to remind homeowners when they obtain a burn permit that there are restrictions on the types of material that can be burned. It is unlawful to burn 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 them and their family, neighbors, and the environment at risk. Materials acceptable for burning include: brush less than five inches in diameter, clean lumber scraps, campfire wood, charcoal and clean wood pallets. NHDES is stepping up enforcement of the open burning laws and will issue fines to those burning illegally in accordance with the NHDES Compliance Assurance Response Policy.

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](http://des.nh.gov) and click on "Open Burning" under the A to Z topics list.

### **USEPA reissued the NPDES General Permit**

On March 9, 2017, the USEPA reissued the remediation general permit (<https://www3.epa.gov/region1/npdes/rgp.html>), and it went into effect on April 8, 2017. The RGP is a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit required for discharges to surface water from activities at contaminated or formerly contaminated sites, including treated groundwater, hydrostatic testing of pipelines and tanks, aquifer pump testing, well development/rehabilitation, and construction dewatering. Petroleum, non-petroleum (e.g. volatile organic compounds) and naturally occurring contaminants are addressed in the permit.

### **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" ("nonprofit 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](mailto: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 US 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](mailto:Sharon.rivard@des.nh.gov)

### NHDES Programs Receive Merit Awards from USEPA

Two NHDES programs were recently recognized by USEPA Region 1 (New England) with Merit Awards for their contributions to protecting the environment and public health. The NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau's (DWGB) **Be Well Informed** program, allows well owners to test their water and get treatment options. The online application uses information entered by the well owner from a water test lab report and evaluate treatment options for multiple contaminants, at varying concentrations. A resulting report interprets test results, summarizes health risks and provides recommended water treatment options. That guidance has educated homeowners about their well water and treatment methods, and a test of nearly 3,000 private wells found more than half exceeded standards for naturally occurring contaminants. This tool highlights the importance of testing private wells. For more information on the NHDES Be Well Informed Private Well App, visit: [xml2.des.state.nh.us/DWITool/](http://xml2.des.state.nh.us/DWITool/)

[Soak Up the Rain NH](http://soaknh.org/) works with citizens and local partners encouraging practices that protect and restore New Hampshire waters from pollution caused by stormwater runoff. The team works with homeowners and students, local officials and nonprofits, municipal staff, and landscaper training programs, to name a few. SOAK NH provides training and outreach materials on its Facebook page and website to inform homeowners how to reduce runoff, including the NH Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater Management: Do-it-Yourself Stormwater Solutions. For more information on the SOAK Up the Rain New Hampshire program, visit: [soaknh.org/](http://soaknh.org/) or [www.facebook.com/SoakNH](https://www.facebook.com/SoakNH)

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