



## The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

March 2018

*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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### Public Comment on NH Wetlands Rules

NHDES is seeking public comments on a major overhaul of the wetland rules. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/process-improvement.htm>

Comments may be submitted electronically to: [MaryAnn.Tilton@des.nh.gov](mailto:MaryAnn.Tilton@des.nh.gov) through close of business April 20, 2018.

When sending email comments, please be sure to include: 2018 Wetland Rule Comments in the subject line of your email.

### Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund Loans and Grants Workshop

NHDES is hosting a Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) loans and grants workshop on April 18, 2018 at NHDES, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH. The morning session will cover infrastructure projects and the afternoon session will cover land conservation projects. For more information, contact Johnna McKenna, [Johnna.mckenna@des.nh.gov](mailto:Johnna.mckenna@des.nh.gov) or (603) 271-7017.

### NHDES Solid Waste Operator Training and Certification – In the North Country!

NHDES Solid Waste Operator Basic Training will be offered on April 19 at the Town & Country Inn and Resort in Shelburne. This full day class is for NEW Solid Waste Operators who have yet to be certified and the SW Operator Training Coordinator invites any operator to contact her to see if they are eligible to use this training class as their continuing professional development for annual renewal. In addition, there will be a NEW workshop the evening of April 19 at the same location in Shelburne. For more information on this class and to register, please contact Tara Mae Albert, SWOT Coordinator at [Tara.Albert@des.nh.gov](mailto:Tara.Albert@des.nh.gov) or (603) 271-3713. For all information regarding the NHDES Solid Waste Operator Training and Certification Program, please go to

<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/swrtas/index.htm>

### National Drug Takeback Day is April 28

For information on the location of over 80 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 28, 2018, go to [www.nh.gov/medsafety](http://www.nh.gov/medsafety)

### Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund 2018 Grant Round

The NHDES Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund is accepting pre-proposals for \$6 million available in nine watersheds throughout the state. Visit: [www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/wmp/index.htm](http://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/wmp/index.htm) for application forms and for additional information about the program. Pre-proposals are due April 30, 2018. The pre-applications will be reviewed the month of May and feedback given to each applicant. Full applications are due August 31, 2018. For more information, please contact Lori Sommer, NHDES Wetland Mitigation Coordinator at [lori.sommer@des.nh.gov](mailto:lori.sommer@des.nh.gov) or (603) 271-4059.

### 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).

### 2018 Healthy Communities Grant Program Request for Initial Proposals

The Healthy Communities Grant Program is EPA New England's main grant program to work directly with communities to reduce environmental risks in order to protect and improve human health and the quality of life, advance

resilience, and preserve/restore important ecosystems. EPA plans to award approximately 10 cooperative agreements, each up to a maximum of \$25,000. A description of target areas can be found in the 2018 Application Guidance at <https://www3.epa.gov/region1/eco/uep/pdfs/2018-hcgp-rfip.pdf>

The deadline to submit an initial proposal is April 13, 2018. Initial proposals must be submitted using <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=301477>

The Healthy Communities Grant Program will host three conference calls before the initial proposal is due. These information sessions are being offered on March 27, 29, and April 3, 2018. A registration form can be found in the Application Guidance or you can send an email to Kayla King ([king.kayla@epa.gov](mailto:king.kayla@epa.gov)) with the necessary contact information included. For more information, please contact me at 617-918-1658 or [marrese.katie@epa.gov](mailto:marrese.katie@epa.gov)

### **Reminder: Restrictions on the type of materials that can be burned in Outside Fires**

NHDES encourages municipalities to remind homeowners and businesses that there are restrictions on the types of material that can be burned in outside fires. It is unlawful to burn items such as: 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 your family, neighbors, and the environment at risk. Therefore, these restrictions are effective all year regardless of rain or snow cover. Materials acceptable for burning include: brush less than five inches in diameter originating on-site, clean lumber scraps originating on-site, campfire wood, charcoal and clean wood pallets.

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.

### **Asbestos Inspection and Abatement – Notice to Town when issuing a Building Renovation and Demolition Permit**

A reminder to all towns and municipalities of the necessity for building owners and their contractors to have an asbestos inspection prior to any renovation/demolition. Please direct them to the NHDES for guidance on their projects. For information on asbestos requirements contact the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services at 271-1373, or visit [des.nh.gov](http://des.nh.gov) and click on "Asbestos Management" under the A to Z topics list.

### **FREE – 4th Grade Water Science Fair and NH Drinking Water Festival**

Two events in one day - schools may participate in one or both events!

At the **festival**, students will spend the day learning about water quality, conservation, erosion, the effects of pollution, wildlife and many other water-related topics. Activities are hands-on and students interact with professionals in fields of science, technology, engineering and math. These lessons are packed with opportunities to explore Next Generation Science Standards concepts!

For the New Hampshire state-level **water science fair** students conduct research, create an exhibit, write a report and present their findings to a panel of judges. There are a variety of ways the school-level fair can be configured. We have a guide booklet to make this process easy and are happy to discuss with you ways your schools can participate.

Participating students with a literary bent may also participate in a **water poetry competition!** The theme this year is "Water in our World" and it is open to all topics (not just science).

The festival, water science fair and water poetry competition are free to registered schools and will take place on May 9th 2018 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in Plymouth, NH. Space is limited - first come, first served! For more information or to register, please contact Lara Hooper at (603) 271-4071 or [lara.hooper@des.nh.gov](mailto:lara.hooper@des.nh.gov).

### **Free Green Your Fleet Workshop, June 1**

The Granite State Clean Cities Coalition presents Green Your Fleet! (GYF) a FREE Workshop on Friday, June 1st 2018 at the New Hampshire Motor Speedway. Learn the latest on alternative fuels, advanced vehicles and technology trends. Don't miss our Keynote Speaker, Jamie Page Deaton, Managing Editor of U.S. News & World Report's Best Cars rankings. Register today at: <https://www.granitestatecleancities.nh.gov/documents/gyf-registration-info.pdf>

### **Small Storage Tank Inspection**

The NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau is pleased to announce the Small Community Public Water System Tank Inspection Grant program. Atmospheric and hydropneumatic tanks are vital components of a small water system and need to be properly maintained. To evaluate the condition of a tank and its remaining life expectancy, it needs to be inspected internally, and if accessible, externally too. NHDES offers small water systems a 100 percent matching grant of up to **\$4,000 per tank** of 20,000 gallons or less to perform tank inspections. NHDES will award a **maximum of \$10,000** for each water system (enough for three tanks) to perform those long-neglected inspections.

For more information or to obtain an application, please visit

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/asset-managment/index.htm> or contact Luis Adorno at (603) 271-2472 or [luis.adorno@des.nh.gov](mailto:luis.adorno@des.nh.gov).

### **Household Hazardous Waste Grants Applications**

NHDES is now accepting requests for applications for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Grants for State Fiscal Year 2019 (July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019). This will be your only opportunity to obtain a grant this coming fiscal year. Costs eligible for reimbursement include contractor HHW disposal costs and an educational campaign addressing source reduction, reuse and recycling of household hazardous waste. Grant requirements give highest priority to applicant communities or groups of communities serving the greatest population, operating a permanent HHW facility, providing access to multiple collection events, or to new applicants.

The deadline for submitting a completed grant application is February 1, 2018. Grant application packages will be available on the NHDES website at:

<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/p2au/pps/hhwp/categories/forms.htm>

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dean Robinson at 271-2047, or by email at

[dean.robinson@des.nh.gov](mailto:dean.robinson@des.nh.gov)

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Please send your comments for the editor to [editor@des.nh.gov](mailto:editor@des.nh.gov)

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