



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

May 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](#)

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 9, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 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.

Register Now for the 2018 Drinking Water Source Protection Conference

NHDES will hold its 2018 Drinking Water Source Protection Conference on **Thursday, May 17**, 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 a total of 18 presentations on:

- PFAS and other emerging contaminants
 - Update on NH's Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund
 - Legislative updates involving drinking water
 - Research from Dartmouth concerning health impacts associated with arsenic exposure
 - Projects related to source water planning, land conservation and community engagement
-and many more interesting source protection topics!

The conference fee is \$65 and includes lunch and refreshments. Qualifies for 5.0 Technical Credit Hours toward the NH Water Works Operator Certification Program. REGISTER at the American Ground Water Trust website:

<https://agwt.org/civicrm/event/info%3Fid%3D268%26reset%3D1>

Registration questions? Contact Andrew Stone at AGWT: astone@agwt.org or (603) 228-5444.

Other questions? Contact Pierce Rigrod at NHDES: pierce.rigrod@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-0688.

Free Forum - Impacts of a Changing Climate on the Upper Valley's Farms and Forests

On May 15, the Upper Valley Adaptation Workgroup is providing a free forum entitled: **Impacts of a Changing Climate on the Upper Valley's Farms and Forests** at the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, NH. Learn more at <http://uvaw.uvlsrcp.org/index.php/events-and-forums/>

NHDES Workshops on Composting

NHDES Solid Waste Operator Training Program has partnered with Mark King from the State of Maine to offer 4 workshops on Composting to be held on May 29 and May 30. These workshops are for solid waste operators as well as municipal officials, composting facilities, community gardens looking to implement composting, and the public.

- **Composting Basics: Don't Oversimplify It** (May 29, 9-Noon and repeated on May 30, 9-Noon): The purpose of this workshop is not to deter people from composting but to let them know it is a process and they need to determine if it is the right one for their facility. And if it is not right for their facility, is it right for their community as a community system or on an individual basis?

- Implementing compost activities at your facility (May 29, 1-4): The purpose of this workshop is to provide practical information to attendees on how to implement composting at their permitted solid waste facility. Seats in this workshop will be held for SW Operators and town officials in charge of implementing composting at a permitted solid waste facility.
- You are ready to compost, now what? (May 30, 1-4): The purpose of this workshop is to have a conversation with those who are in various stages of composting. Discuss their issues or what has worked really well.

For more information on this class and to register, please contact Tara Mae Albert, SWOT Coordinator at 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>

Free Green Your Fleet Workshop, June 1

The Granite State Clean Cities Coalition presents *Green Your Fleet!* (GYF!) a FREE alternative fuel and advanced vehicle technology workshop on Friday, June 1, 2018, at the New Hampshire Motor Speedway. With panels and breakout sessions on topics from “Electric Vehicle Charging” and “Autonomous Vehicles” to “CNG & Propane Fleet Modifications” and “Procurement & Funding Opportunities.” GYF is geared towards everyone from fleet managers to vehicle enthusiasts alike. Register today at: <https://www.granitestatecleancities.nh.gov/documents/gyf-registration-info.pdf>

NH Geological Survey Mapping Activities

The NH Geological Survey (NHGS) will be mapping in the following areas beginning this spring through early fall: Sutton, NW corner Warner, NE corner Bradford, SE corner Newbury; Sandwich, NW corner Moultonborough; western Albany, NW corner Tamworth; northern Randolph, southwestern Berlin.

Information about the geologic mapping program can be obtained at <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/gsu/gmp/categories/overview.htm>

NHGS is also seeking feedback to better align its products and services with the needs of its stakeholders. Please complete this short survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZKBZR88> if you are willing to help.

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.

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 NHDES for guidance on their projects. For information on asbestos requirements contact NHDES at (603) 271-1373, or visit des.nh.gov and click on “Asbestos Management” under the A to Z topics list.

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 % 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-management/index.htm> or contact Luis Adorno at (603) 271-2472 or luis.adorno@des.nh.gov.

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