



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

August 2019

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](#)

Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund 2019 Funding Application Round

NHDES is soliciting funding applications for the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund (DWGTF) 2019 Annual Drinking Water Construction Projects Assistance Program. The DWGTF annual program is a program where eligible drinking water infrastructure improvement projects are awarded low-interest loans and/or grants selected by the DWGTF Advisory Commission on a competitive basis. **All funding applications are due by Friday, September 13, 2019, for consideration in this round.** Submission of applications online through the State of NH Online Forms is strongly encouraged to reduce errors and processing time. Visit the [DWGTF website](#) for more information on the 2019 annual funding round and for links to the online forms portal. For more information on the DWGTF, contact Erin Holmes at (603) 271-8321 or erin.holmes@des.nh.gov.

Free Event: Bi-State Electric Vehicle (EV) Connector, September 27

The Granite State and Vermont Clean Cities Coalitions are co-hosting the Bi-State EV Connector on Friday, September 27, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Hypertherm, 71 Heater Road, in Lebanon, NH. Fleet managers, municipalities, schools and businesses interested in transportation and technology electrification are invited to attend this free event showcasing light-, medium-, and heavy-duty vehicles, ride-and-drives, technology displays, equipment demonstrations, speaker panels and more. Lunch is included. Register today on the [Granite State Clean Cities Coalition website](#).

Wetlands Rules Training

The new wetlands rules have been adopted and are scheduled to be effective on December 15, 2019. NHDES trainings will be held on September 26 in Concord, October 10 at the Pease office, and October 16 in Concord. In cooperation with several stakeholders (including the NH Association of Conservation Commissions and the NH Municipal Association), NHDES will also be providing several overview sessions. Information on the content of the trainings, timeframes and online registration will be posted on the [Wetlands Bureau webpage](#) in the near future.

Asset Management: "Strategic Communication" Workshop

The NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau, Wastewater Engineering Bureau and Watershed Management Bureau are hosting the annual **Asset Management: "Strategic Communication" workshop** in Pembroke, NH, on **October 2, 2019**. This is a great opportunity for all members of your organization (from your administrative assistants, operators, finance managers and the decision-makers) to sharpen their communication skills. This workshop will provide individuals with a systematic, multi-stakeholder approach to improve communications internally and externally. Communication is not just a verbal skill! Most of our communication happens non-verbally. We have also invited software/hardware vendors that are commonly used in the New England area to provide you with an opportunity to network and gather information on how to use technology to increase your ability to communicate with all of your stakeholders. Registration information can be found on the [Asset Management webpage](#). Any questions can be directed to Sharon Nall at (603) 271-2508 or Sharon.Nall@des.nh.gov.

Local Source Water Protection Grant

2020 Local Source Water Protection Grant applications are available now and due November 1, 2019. Find more information along with the application packet on the [Drinking Water Source Protection Program webpage](#).

Tools & Opportunities for Teachers & Wastewater Operators to Work Together for Water Education

NHDES and NEIWPC will be conducting a workshop for wastewater operators and teachers, "Tools & Opportunities for Teachers & Wastewater Operators to Work Together for Water Education" on Wednesday, November 20, 2019, from 8:30 to 4 pm at NHDES. This hands-on Project Wet workshop will connect local wastewater operators and teachers and provide activities that teach water science and champion water issues. Tap into your local water experts and Project WET to bring high-quality water science and real-world water issues to your students and community. Activities will focus on grades 4 through 8, but teachers of all grades are welcome! To register, click on the [Workshop](#)

[Flyer](#). For more information, please contact Lara Hooper at lara.hooper@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-4071 or Ray Gordon at ray.gordon@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-3571.

Annual Facility Reports for Solid Waste Facilities – Mid-Way through 2019

The Solid Waste Management Bureau (SWMB) at NHDES would like to remind you that each year all solid waste facilities must submit an Annual Facility Report (AFR) including for inactive facilities (i.e. closed landfills). We are a little bit more than halfway through 2019 and ALL facilities should be keeping data to complete their 2019 AFR, which is required to be submitted by March 31, 2020. Additionally, the SWOT Program will host two mini-work sessions for those that would like assistance filling out their AFRs. These sessions will be held on January 15, 2020, so mark your calendar. For more information on these sessions, please contact Tara Mae Albert at tara.albert@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-3713.

Planning Board Environmental Assistance

Did you receive a proposal/application for a new small business coming to your town or city? Not sure what environmental rules apply? The Small Business Technical Assistance Program (SBTAP) can help by providing guidance and publications on potential environmental regulations that may apply to that business sector, including hazardous waste management, groundwater protection and air emissions. For more information, go to the [SBTAP webpage](#).

Financial Assistance for Heating Oil Tank Replacements

NHDES is looking to increase awareness of the [Safetank program](#) among NH cities and towns. This nearly 20-year-old program provides eligible homeowners assistance of up to \$2,250 for the replacement of an aboveground heating oil tank if they meet the definition of “low-income” by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Page 5 of the [Safetank application](#) contains the current income eligibility requirements. Please keep this program in mind for residents of your communities who may need the assistance. For more information please contact: Genevieve Al-Egaily at Genevieve.Al-Egaily@des.nh.gov, (603) 271-3577 or Erik Paddleford at Erik.Paddleford@des.nh.gov, (603) 271-3431.

NHDES Subsurface e-Permitting Now Accepts eChecks

In May, a new option went into effect for registered users of the Subsurface e-Permitting system: payment by electronic check (eCheck) and a redesigned payment page. The eCheck option has no service fee. When using the credit card payment option, application fees over \$1,200 will incur an additional 2.49% service fee. For the largest subdivision applications, the payment options will be limited to paper check, money order or voucher. If you have questions after using the new payment page, please contact the Subsurface System Bureau at (603) 271-3501.

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. With the spring construction season here, homeowners and contractors will be applying for building permits. Please direct them to NHDES for guidance on their projects. For information on asbestos requirements contact NHDES at (603) 271-1373, or visit the [Asbestos Program webpage](#).

Emergency Generators - NHDES Approvals and Installation Requirements

Any facility installing an emergency electrical generator with an aboveground petroleum storage tank (AST) having a capacity of more than 660 gallons must submit an AST application to the Waste Management Division of NHDES for construction approval a minimum of 45 days prior to installation. This is true whether the AST forms an integral part of the generator enclosure or is free standing. It is unlawful to install and to operate such an emergency generator or AST without prior NHDES approval. NHDES is stepping up enforcement of the AST laws and will seek to impose fines against those who illegally install and operate an emergency generator having an AST capacity of more than 660 gallons, in accordance with the NHDES Compliance Assurance Response Policy. For more information on the AST application and approval process, please contact Charles Corliss at (603) 271-6058 or visit the [Aboveground Storage Tank program](#) on the NHDES website.

NHDES Facebook Page

NHDES has an official [Facebook Page](#). The page will be used to post information about NHDES events, trainings, workshops, publications, and more. Please take the time to check out the new page and “Like” us to stay updated on new content. You can also find us on Twitter (@NHDES) and YouTube. If you have any questions or suggestions for content, please contact us at socialmedia@des.nh.gov

Please send your comments for the editor to editor@des.nh.gov

To receive press releases and other publications of the NH Department of Environmental Services via email, please sign up [on our newsletter subscription page](#).