



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

June 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](#)

Community Water System Leak Detection Survey Grant Application Period Open

The NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau is now accepting applications for the Community Water System Leak Detection Survey Grant. This grant is open to all community water systems in New Hampshire, and selected applicants will receive a **free** leak detection survey by a professional leak detection specialist during the 2020 field season. The application is available at https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/water_conservation/leak-detection.htm and is due by July 31, 2019. Please contact Stacey Herbold at stacey.herbold@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-6685 with questions.

Summer Energy & Climate Institute 2019

The [Vermont Energy Education Program](#) (VEEP) and its affiliate, the [NH Energy Education Project](#) (NHEEP) will hold a week-long summer institute for teachers to deeply explore climate and energy systems through investigations, project-based learning, academically productive discussion, and action. This institute is designed to help teachers add student-centered projects to their toolkit while they develop their curriculum and instructional practices. For more information, read the full announcement: <http://veep.org/teacher-resources/teacher-training/summer-institutes/>

VW Electric School Bus Replacement Program

The New Hampshire Office of Strategic Initiatives (OSI), Lead Agency for the Volkswagen (VW) Environmental Mitigation Trust, in association with NHDES, is requesting proposals for an Electric School Bus Replacement Program. The purpose of the Program is to alleviate excess nitrogen oxide emissions caused by the VW violations through implementation of cost-effective projects and to address the additional goals of the State of New Hampshire Beneficiary [Mitigation Plan](#). The Program, which will replace diesel school buses with electric school buses, is utilizing approximately \$1,250,000 of VW Environmental Mitigation Trust funding. Proposals will be accepted until Friday, July 26, 2019 at 4:00 PM. Additional information as well as a draft application is available on the VW funding page of the OSI website <https://www.nh.gov/osi/energy/programs/vw-trust-funding.htm>. Any questions can be directed to Tim White at Timothy.White@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-5552.

Asset Management Workshop

NHDES is hosting its 6th Annual Asset Management Workshop "Strategic Communication" at the NH National Guard Facility, Edward Cross Training Complex, 722 Riverwood Drive, Pembroke, NH, on October 2, 2019. This workshop will provide water, wastewater and stormwater operators and managers with means and methods on how to leverage asset management programs to maximize interactions with internal and external stakeholders. There will be ample opportunity to discuss your ideas and network during the breakout sessions throughout the day. Forms and information are at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/asset-managment/categories/training.htm>

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.

Bi-State Electric Vehicle Connector Event

Granite State Clean Cities Coalition in collaboration with Vermont Clean Cities Coalition will be hosting this transportation electrification event for fleets, municipalities and businesses on Friday, September 27, from 9 AM – 3 PM at Hypertherm, 71 Heater Road, Lebanon, NH. Click here for more information and to register:

<https://www.granitestatecleancities.nh.gov/documents/registration-and-sponsorship.pdf>

Brightfields 2019

BrownfieldListings.com has announced another installment of its highly impactful and groundbreaking solar development series. Brought to you in collaboration with New Hampshire's Regional Planning Commissions and the New Jersey Institute of Technology, [Brightfields 2019 - New England](#) will take place at the Falls Event Center in downtown Manchester, New Hampshire on July 23rd. This dynamic and interactive one-day solar energy development event offers breakfast, lunch and the opportunity to connect to the solar industry's top experts—as well as to test your property's solar power potential. Free for landowners, companies and communities with potential solar development sites (not rooftops), [Brightfields 2019 - New England](#) offers the rare chance to connect directly with solar developers, investors and professionals. Simply by entering one (1+) property of at least one (1+) acre in size into the event's Solar Market Mixer you can attend Brightfields at no cost. In this open, no-obligation networking forum, potential Brightfields projects will come to life as participants meet eye-to-eye and explore the solar development potential of thousands of greenfield, brownfield and landfill acres in the Northeast. Go to the [Brightfields 2019 - New England](#) website to register.

NHDES Subsurface e-Permitting Now Accepts eChecks

In May, registered users of the Subsurface e-Permitting system will see a new option for 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 at <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/cb/ceps/ams/index.htm>

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 at

<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/orcb/ocs/astp/index.htm>

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

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