



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

October 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](#).

NHDES Land Resource Management Program Application Fee Updates

Certain Wetlands, Shoreland Protection and Alteration of Terrain permit fees are changing. NHDES will begin requiring the new fees for all permit applications received on or after November 1, 2019. All fees are non-refundable. To find specific information on the fee updates, visit the [application fee updates](#) webpage. Sample wetland forms for filing after December 15 are posted on the [draft notices and application forms webpage](#). If you have additional questions, please call the Land Resource Management at (603) 271-2147.

Wetlands Rules Public Hearings

NHDES is proposing amendments to the adopted wetlands rules as follows: Env-Wt 100, Env-Wt 200, Env-Wt 300-600 & 900. A public hearing will be held at 1:00 pm on Friday, November 8, 2019, in Room 208C at NHDES, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH. You may submit written comment even if you do not attend the public hearing. The deadline for filing written comments is Friday, November 22, 2019, at 4 pm. For more information, contact Mary Ann Tilton, Wetlands Bureau Assistant Administrator at MaryAnn.Tilton@des.nh.gov. To view initial proposals and rulemaking notices, visit the [Proposed Wetlands Rules webpage](#).

Funds Available Through Diesel Emissions Reduction Act Program

NHDES has funds available through the Environmental Protection Agency's Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) program to help diesel equipment owners in NH reduce emissions. Through DERA funding and Volkswagen Settlement funds, this year's program will have \$700,000 for funding projects. DERA provides partial funding for local/state governments and businesses to reduce emissions through idle reduction technologies; exhaust controls; or replacement of older on or off road diesel engines/vehicles/equipment with newer engines/vehicles/equipment. Project proposals will be accepted through November 12, 2019. Additional information on the program is available on the [NHDES DERA webpage](#). Any questions can be directed to Jessica Wilcox at jessica.wilcox@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-6751.

New Hampshire Municipal Association Conference

Please swing by the NHDES booth at the NHMA Conference, November 13 and 14. We will have all the latest information that municipalities need to know. For more information about the conference, visit the [NHMA website](#).

Commercial Energy Efficiency Trainings at Lakes Region Community College

The Lakes Region Community College is offering a series of short commercial energy efficiency trainings, which are a great opportunity to accelerate energy efficiency savings in your buildings. With NHSaves sponsorship, the trainings are inexpensive and action-oriented. Two that may be of interest to municipalities include: "Efficient Heating and Cooling for Commercial Building Managers" on November 13, 2019, from 8 am – 4 pm at the Airport Holiday Inn in Manchester, NH, and "Energy Efficiency for Commercial Building Managers" on November 14, 2019, from 8 am – 4 pm at the Airport Holiday Inn in Manchester, NH. Registration is required with a nominal \$20 advance co-pay for each of these \$160 programs. For more info or to register, visit the [LRCC Energy webpage](#).

Local Energy Solutions (LES) Conference

The Local Energy Solutions (LES) Conference is NH's premier statewide energy conference dedicated to achieving clean energy success in the Granite State. The conference will be held on November 15, 2019, at the Grappone Center in Concord, NH. Whether you're an energy committee member, local leader, engaged citizen, student, legislator, industry representative, or curious to learn more about clean energy technologies, practices, or policies, you do not want to miss this conference. Visit the [LES Conference website](#) to find out more and register to attend.

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 am to 4:00 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, fill out the registration form](#) or visit the [NEIWPCC website](#). 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.

Application for Expansion of the NCES Landfill – Public Hearing

NHDES has received an application from North Country Environmental Services, Inc. (NCES) to expand the NCES landfill located in Bethlehem, NH. A public hearing to receive testimony on this application has been scheduled for December 3, 2019. Details regarding the public hearing, including the public comment period and links to the application documents, are contained [in the notice](#).

Annual Facility Reports for Solid Waste Facilities – Midway 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 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.

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. Students participating in the festival may also participate in a water poetry competition. The theme this year is “The Depth of Water” and it is open to all topics (not just science). For the NH state-level water science fair, students will 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 ways your schools can participate. The festival, water science fair and water poetry competition are free to registered schools and will take place on May 6, 2020 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm in Keene, 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.

2019 Biennial Solid Waste Report

The Solid Waste Management Bureau at NHDES has prepared a report on solid waste management in New Hampshire. The report is available on the [NHDES website](#).

PROTECT YOUR TAP: 10-minute lead test

The U.S. EPA and NHDES created the [Protect Your Tap: 10-minute lead test](#), an online guide that walks homeowners through a series of steps to see if they have lead pipes bringing water into their home, how to reduce their exposure to lead and how to get their water tested. If you would like to share the guide with your community, please contact Amy Rousseau at (603) 271-0893 or amy.rousseau@des.nh.gov for more information.

Is Your School AHERA Compliant?

The school year is well underway, so make sure your schools’ Asbestos Management Plans are up-to-date and in compliance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), 40 CFR 763, Subpart E. The purpose of AHERA is to ensure that local educational agencies safely manage asbestos containing building materials found in schools, to ensure students, faculty and the general public are not exposed to asbestos. This brochure has the [responsibilities of all public, non-profit private, and charter schools](#) in the State of New Hampshire regarding AHERA. NHDES urges all schools to provide a safe and healthy educational environment. For more information, contact the [NHDES Asbestos Management Program](#) at (603) 271-4555.

Vital Communities' New Transportation Toolkit for Towns

In both Vermont and New Hampshire, transportation is the largest single source of greenhouse gases. Vital Communities’ [new online toolkit](#) is for community volunteers in both states who would like to locally tackle the climate impacts of our car-centered transportation system. The toolkit provides resources for individual action, community events, municipal planning, and more. You’ll find everything from tips on developing neighborhood

carpools to an award-winning Mobility Checklist that helps planners, developers, and town boards “think beyond the car.”

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 or (603) 271-3577, or Erik Paddleford at Erik.Paddleford@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-3431.

NHDES Subsurface e-Permitting Now Accepts eChecks

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 approaching, 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 and plans 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. For more information on the AST application, plan and approval process, please contact Charles Corliss at (603) 271-6058, visit the [Aboveground Storage Tank program](#) on the NHDES website and note [“sample plans.”](#)

NHDES Instagram Account

NHDES has an official [Instagram Account](#) (@NHEnvironmentalServices). The account will be used to post information about NHDES events, trainings, workshops, publications and more. Please take the time to check it out and follow us to stay connected with NHDES. You can also find us on [Twitter](#) (@NHDES), [Facebook](#) (@NHEnvironmentalServices) and [YouTube](#) (@NHDES). 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](#).