

# New Hampshire Pollution Prevention Program



## Biennial Report

2017-2018

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE  
POLLUTION PREVENTION PROGRAM  
BIENNIAL REPORT  
2017-2018

Prepared by:

Cynthia Nelson  
Pollution Prevention Program

Robert R. Scott, Commissioner  
Clark Freise, Assistant Commissioner

October 2019

New Hampshire Pollution Prevention Program  
Office of the Commissioner  
29 Hazen Drive; PO Box 95  
Concord, NH 03302-0095  
(603) 271-6460  
[nhppp@des.nh.gov](mailto:nhppp@des.nh.gov)  
[www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov)





***Pollution prevention***, also called P2, refers to activities or strategies that reduce or eliminate waste at the source by modifying production processes, promoting the use of non-toxic or less-toxic substances, implementing conservation techniques, and reusing materials rather than putting them into the waste stream.

The New Hampshire Pollution Prevention Program (NHPPP) has provided free and confidential, compliance and pollution prevention assistance to the state’s businesses, municipalities, public agencies, organizations and residents since 1991. The program has worked with hundreds of New Hampshire businesses, helping them save millions of dollars on everything from material purchases to water and energy savings, and from hazardous and solid waste management to disposal costs. NHPPP provides assistance in the form of educational outreach, site assessments, technical research and compliance assistance.

This report highlights the program’s activities for calendar years 2017 and 2018. During the reporting period, NHPPP focused on specific business sectors and projects, including: hazardous waste generators, the hospitality industry and breweries.

In the spirit of Pollution Prevention (P2), this biennial report is offered electronically to minimize paper use and printing costs. If you would like a paper copy or additional information about any of the projects discussed, contact the P2 staff at [nhppp@des.nh.gov](mailto:nhppp@des.nh.gov). You can also visit the [New Hampshire Pollution Prevention Program webpage](#).

We look forward to hearing from you!

*Cynthia Nelson*

Pollution Prevention Program Manager



# Hospitality

New  
Hampshire  
Green  
Hospitality  
Program



In October of 2016, NHPPP was awarded a grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to work with New Hampshire's hospitality industry. The goal was to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve water, reduce waste and eliminate the use of toxic cleaners.

NHPPP utilized grant funds to establish the New Hampshire Green Hospitality Program (NHGHP). The program recognizes facilities that are leaders in reducing their impact on the environment. Recognition in the program includes a verification visit and requires efforts for continuous improvement. In exchange, NHPPP provides free technical assistance and promotes facilities' efforts using social media and NHDES' website.

Through this program, NHPPP assisted 12 lodging or restaurant facilities with energy, water and waste reduction strategies, resulting in a decrease of 5,160 pounds of waste, 2,192 gallons of water, 13,417 kWh of electricity and 4.22 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, and savings of more than \$18,000.

# Breweries



In October of 2018, NHPPP received an EPA grant to launch a project working with breweries in the Granite State. This is a growing industry in New Hampshire that consumes large quantities of water and energy. This grant work built on previous grant-funded work with this sector. When NHPPP first started working with breweries in early 2016, there were 37 breweries in New Hampshire. That number quickly grew to over 50. Currently, there are 68 established breweries and more than 15 in the planning stages. The growth of this industry is expected to continue. NHPPP staff visited 16 breweries and assisted four others by phone during this period.

Information about wastewater (which can be problematic for municipalities and septic systems) and resources for energy efficiency, water conservation and waste reduction were provided. The goal is to work with a minimum of five breweries each year to track energy and water use, and help them to reduce their usages. NHPPP also has resources to connect brewers with farmers to find a beneficial use for spent grains, keeping the grain out of landfills. The relationships built with the New Hampshire Brewers Association and individual breweries provide increased opportunities for technical assistance to reduce discharge of high-strength wastewater and maintain compliance, which is a benefit for wastewater treatment facilities.

In addition, NHPPP was invited to be the guest lecturer at four class periods and two lab periods for the Advanced Principles of Brewing class at the University of New Hampshire. NHPPP staff instructed the students

## An Environmental Champion is Recognized

A country inn in central New Hampshire filled out an application to be recognized by the NHGHP. As part of the verification visit, NHPPP made suggestions to the innkeepers for more ways to reduce their energy use. In the past year, the inn implemented a number of these recommendations, as well as several more. They have installed three electric car chargers, increased insulation in the inn and installed high-efficiency mini-split HVAC units. They continue to replace light bulbs with LED bulbs as needed, bringing the inn to at least 90% LED lighting. In addition, they recycled a 20-year-old refrigerator, upgrading to a more efficient commercial refrigerator, which uses newer refrigerants less harmful to the environment.

NHGHP provides opportunities for NHPPP to make recommendations such as these to participating businesses, resulting in continual improvements in sustainability.

in principles of Pollution Prevention, which apply to the brewery industry as well as any other field of employment the student chooses in the future. NHPPP also presented information on sustainability for brewing, climate change, reducing high-strength wastewater, and the importance of tracking water and energy use.

## ***Hazardous Waste***

NHPPP provides assistance to schools in identifying hazardous chemicals in their science, art and shop classrooms. Janitorial cleaning supplies are also examined to determine if any of the products contain toxic chemicals. During this two-year period, NHPPP visited eight schools for compliance assistance and helped with chemical cleanouts. Suggestions were made to switch, where possible, to non-hazardous alternatives, and NHPPP provided information about proper hazardous waste disposal.

In addition to providing compliance assistance through site visits, NHPPP developed a [Small Quantity Generator \(SQG\) newsletter](#) to provide answers to many questions that are frequently asked by SQGs. NHPPP also worked with the NHDES Hazardous Waste Compliance Section to create a video series to help generators of hazardous waste better understand how to make a hazardous waste determination. This video series is located on the [NHDES YouTube page](#).

NHPPP continues to teach Pollution Prevention principles to hazardous waste generators by teaching a class as part of the Hazardous Waste Coordinators Certification program. In 2017 and 2018, NHPPP provided pollution prevention strategies to reduce the amount of hazardous waste generated to more than 100 hazardous waste coordinators.

## ***Outreach***

NHPPP has enjoyed many opportunities to reach out to the community and younger generations to share the principles and importance of source reduction. Each year, NHPPP has participated in the fourth-grade New Hampshire Drinking Water Festival. In addition, NHPPP spoke to an area high school and provided waste reduction ideas to attendees at the Discover Wild NH Day event. NHPPP is an active participant in New Hampshire Healthy Hospitals (NH3E), which supports sustainability in hospitals. NHPPP taught pollution prevention principles to New Hampshire water managers, solid waste operators and wastewater treatment facility operators. Altogether, NHPPP has instructed more than 200 adults and 100 children during this two-year period.

## ***Hazardous Materials and Emergency Planning***

In 2018, NHPPP presented at two “Hazardous Materials Management and Emergency Planning Workshops” in Nashua. The audience consisted of Local Emergency Planning Committee members and local businesses that are regulated by EPA’s Tier II Program (businesses with hazardous chemicals above certain quantities). The Nashua Emergency Planning Committee and an independent environmental consultant provided presentations on the importance of working together to prepare for potential emergencies and how to improve emergency plans. NHDES staff provided information about extreme weather events due to climate

change. NHPPP staff gave a presentation on managing hazardous materials in a changing climate and offered pollution prevention strategies to reduce the use of hazardous chemicals.

## Core Activities

NHPPP helps businesses examine their processes, look at the waste they generate, and use the pollution prevention hierarchy to “avoid, reduce, reuse or recycle” that waste. If none of those options work, NHPPP helps them to make sure the waste is disposed of properly.

NHPPP continues to offer free and confidential compliance assistance and pollution prevention strategies to all requesting New Hampshire businesses, institutions, municipalities and agencies. Without the risk of enforcement, these facilities can schedule a site visit, during which NHPPP staff will assist with compliance issues and offer suggestions to reduce waste, energy use and water consumption. After the visit, a confidential report containing observations and suggestions is generated and sent to the company.

NHPPP also provides support by phone and email. In 2017 and 2018, NHPPP responded to 329 requests for technical research, product information and regulatory questions. Staff conducted 13 site visits (in addition to the sector-based site visits) to various facilities to provide compliance assistance and waste reduction strategies.

## Other Activities

**Mercury** – NHDES is a member of the Interstate Mercury Education and Reduction Clearinghouse (IMERC), which is an organization that provides:

- Ongoing technical and programmatic assistance to states that have enacted mercury education and reduction legislation.
- A single point of contact for industry and the public for information on mercury-added products and member states' mercury education and reduction programs.

New Hampshire’s mercury reduction statute ([149-M:52 – 58a](#)) restricts the sale of certain mercury-added products. NHPPP staff participate in calls and activities to ensure businesses are working to reduce the use and sale of mercury-added products in IMERC member states.

**Toxics in Packaging** – NHDES is also a member of the Toxics in Packaging Clearinghouse (TPCH), which coordinates implementation of state legislation on behalf of its member states, with the goal of promoting consistency across states. TPCH is a resource and single point of contact for companies seeking information on toxics in packaging requirements or an exemption. NHPPP staff participates in calls and activities that ensure businesses adhere to the requirements of our Toxics in Packaging legislation. ([149-M:32 - 40](#))

**Pollution Prevention Hierarchy**



## *Accolades*

In 2018, NHPPP staff were recognized by New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services for Outstanding Community Service for their extra efforts to help the Bedford School District find a safer alternative to polystyrene lunch trays. Staff read a newspaper article stating that Bedford was looking to replace its polystyrene trays with compostable molded fiber trays. NHPPP had been doing some research into this seemingly viable alternative only to find that most of these molded fiber products contain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). NHPPP provided suggestions to the Bedford Food Service Director for compostable trays made from corn that did not contain PFAS. Although these trays were more expensive, Bedford chose the safest and most environmentally friendly trays. The hope for the future is to go back to reusable foodware, as that is the most sustainable choice.

## *Future Projects*

Along with the core activities, and previously mentioned brewery and hospitality projects, NHPPP will be working with NHDES' Sludge and Septage Program to help businesses work to eliminate the use of PFAS.

For more information, visit the [New Hampshire Pollution Prevention webpage](#), or contact Cynthia Nelson at [nhppp@des.nh.gov](mailto:nhppp@des.nh.gov) or (603) 271-6460.