



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

March 2020

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 Response to COVID-19

The coronavirus pandemic has cause many of us to do business differently. NHDES has set up a [COVID-19 Response](#) webpage as a clearinghouse for information related to any changes in NHDES program activity. NHDES will do its best to communicate any changes directly with our program customers and stakeholders, however please check this webpage regularly, as we will update information as necessary.

#OneThing4Earth Video Challenge

NHDES has launched the #OneThing4Earth Video Challenge to help recognize the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, which will be April 22, 2020. The purpose of the challenge is for people to record a short video or take photos of themselves doing one thing that is good for the earth, then in the video, challenge their family, friends and others to do their own video. People who accept the challenge should post the videos on any or all of their social media platforms (Instagram, Facebook, or Twitter) and use the hashtag #OneThing4Earth and tag NHDES. View [Commissioner Scott's video on Facebook](#).

Wetlands Permitting Public Information Notice

Due to COVID-19 the citizens of New Hampshire, state agencies, and cities and towns are taking additional safety measures to protect our employees and customers. Because of the extra precautions to meet the CDC guidelines and the Governor's order, Towns and cities have closed their offices to the general public.

Many of our wetland application processes start with a town clerk signature (RSA 482-A:3, I(1)). In particular, the streamlined Wetland Permit by Notification and expedited permit application processes require conservation commission waiver of signatures to meet RSA 482-A: 11, III(a).

Accordingly, NHDES will accept emails from town and city clerks, conservation commissions, Local River Management Advisory Committees (LACs), and Rivers Councils to serve as records of receipt and/or waiver of intervention for wetland applications in lieu of wet signatures during this declared Coronavirus emergency. To ensure these town/city electronic authorizations connect to the right NHDES application, please include the applicant name, land owner name, location address, and project description to DES.WetlandsTownConn@des.nh.gov with subject line "Town Connect."

Please continue to send your application and plans directly to NHDES at 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03302.

Handling of Solid Waste with Potential or Known COVID-19 Contamination

NHDES's Solid Waste Management Bureau has posted a [NOTICE](#) about the handling of solid waste with potential or known COVID-19 contamination. The Bureau is asking that if changes in facility operation due to the health emergency have been made, email those changes to solidwasteinfo@des.nh.gov. Starting on Monday, March 30, staff from the Bureau will be touching base with each solid waste facility. Each facility will have its own point of contact within the SWMB to discuss concerns regarding operations and solid waste management at the facility.

Homeowners' Handling of Waste with Potential or Known COVID-19 Contamination

Solid waste facilities across the state are making temporary changes to their operations, including temporarily changing operating hours and ceasing acceptance of recyclables, bulky waste items, or construction and demolition debris. Please check with your municipality regarding the current waste disposal options in your community. Further, NHDES reminds homeowners that: It is against the law to openly burn solid waste – burning solid waste can harm your health and the environment. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

Batteries, especially lithium ion batteries, can and do cause fires at solid waste facilities. Do not place lithium ion batteries in the regular trash. Please see NHDES' [Best Management Practices](#) and [SWOT Training Module](#) on batteries.

Solid waste operators are on the front lines of managing the waste we all generate and should be protected during this time. You can help by ensuring your waste is properly secured in closed trash bags. NHDES has posted a [notice](#) regarding the handling of waste with potential or known COVID-19 contaminated that has links to additional waste handling information. If you have any additional questions, please contact the Solid Waste Management Bureau at (603) 271-2925 or solidwasteinfo@des.nh.gov.

Notice to Solid Waste Facility Owners & Permittees -2019 Annual Facility Report Forms

The 2019 Annual Facility Report (AFR) forms, used for reporting required information regarding the operation of your solid waste facility (active or inactive) are available on our [Solid Waste webpages](#). Please make sure you choose the correct form for your facility. These reports are due each year from all active solid waste facilities and the majority of the inactive landfills. If you have questions, please contact the Solid Waste Management Bureau at (603) 271-2925 or solidwasteinfo@des.nh.gov.

Residential Trash Burning is Against the Law

Reminder: NHDES regulations prohibit residential trash burning, including the burning of paper products. For more information, visit our [webpage on Open Burning](#). For questions or to report a complaint, contact Linda Magoon at (603) 271-0907 or by email at Linda.Magoon@des.nh.gov.

UNH Cooperative Extension COVID-19 Information

The UNH Cooperative Extension has developed a webpage of [Resources Addressing Community, Business and Economic Impacts of COVID-1](#). The site provides helpful information concerning the indirect impacts facing communities and local economies: impacts on businesses, community infrastructure, community decision-making, etc.

Cancelled: 2020 Water Infrastructure Funding Workshop

The New Hampshire Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) Programs and New Hampshire Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund (DWGTF) workshop scheduled for April 10, 2020 has been cancelled. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

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.

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

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