



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

June 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 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.

Drought Information

As of Thursday, June 24th, over 70% of NH has been upgraded from “Abnormally Dry” (D0) to “Moderate Drought” (D1), while the northern 30% of the state continues to experience “Abnormally Dry” (D0) conditions. NHDES has advised public water systems to carefully track supplies and implement outdoor water use restrictions as needed. NHDES is advising municipalities in drought areas to consider imposing lawn watering restrictions, as authorized by RSA 41:11-d, to ensure the community is able to continue to meet essential needs as conditions worsen. To prepare your community for the impacts of drought, see [Drought Guidance for Municipalities](#) and [Guidance on Adopting Lawn Watering Restrictions](#).

Free Face Coverings for Solid Waste and Recycling Industry

SWANA is collecting orders online for cloth face coverings through July 17 on behalf of the entire U.S. solid waste and recycling industry. These face coverings will be available at no cost to companies and agencies in the industry. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), along with other federal partners, are distributing cloth face coverings at no cost to essential critical infrastructure workers in the United States and has asked [SWANA](#) to assist in the distribution. Place your order before July 17.

Wetlands BMP Available Online

This spring NHDES mailed hard copy of the [Wetlands Best Management Practice Techniques for Avoidance and Minimization](#) to each Conservation Commission. We have heard very positive feedback! Unfortunately, we have only a limited supply and printing. Please know you can also view and [download the PDF online](#).

Request for Proposals for the Installation and Operation of Level 2 Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment in Concord NH - Notice of Change to Question and Response Dates and Addition of Language to Section 3.1 Regarding Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) Requirements

NHDES and the Governor’s Office of Strategic Initiatives (OSI) announce the release of a second revision to the above referenced RFP. NHDES is seeking proposals from qualified Vendors to furnish, install, maintain and operate electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) at a State-owned lot in downtown Concord, NH. The revision was necessary to address PCI DSS requirements that were not included in the existing RFP. In addition to the addition of PCI DSS requirements the deadline for submitting questions has been changed to June 30, 2020 and the Response to Questions date has changed to July 7, 2020. The deadline for submittal of proposals is July 13, 2020. Additional information is available on [OSI website](#).

POSTPONED UNTIL 2021: GSCCC’s Green Your Fleet! Workshop at the NH Motor Speedway

GSCCC's Green Your Fleet! Workshop, originally scheduled for June 4, 2020 at the NH Motor Speedway, has been postponed until 2021. Our kind hosts at the Speedway are flexible about rescheduling our event. We will continue to monitor the current health situation and are looking ahead to next year. Check out [our website](#) for information and future updates.

Free Webinar Event: Supporting Electric School Buses in New Hampshire – Thursday, July 30th at 2:00 PM

Granite State Clean Cities Coalition (GSCCC) in collaboration with Drive Electric New Hampshire (DENH) is pleased to present a webinar event on "Supporting Electric School Buses in New Hampshire." Now more than ever, we need to

bring the public health benefits of zero tailpipe emissions to our communities. If you want to see electric school buses on your streets, you need to start planning today. To help you prepare, we will be connecting you to potential Volkswagen and federal funding opportunities, other financial considerations, vendors, current technology, and the challenges of and solutions for an electric school bus pilot project in a cold weather environment. Join us Thursday, July 30th at 2:00 pm for this free event which is open to all, especially School Districts, Business Administrators, Superintendents, Board Members, School Transportation Providers, Select Boards, Regional Planning Commissions, Energy Committees, GSCCC stakeholders & DENH members. Agenda and presenters coming soon. [Webinar Event Registration Link](#). Questions? Contact Jessica Wilcox, GSCCC Coordinator at jessica.wilcox@des.nh.gov.

New Funds Available! Brownfields RLF Cleanup Grants

The NHDES Brownfields Program is making available \$400,000 for two or more Cleanup Grants and is soliciting applications from interested eligible entities. The Cleanup Grants will provide funding to conduct cleanup activities on properties where the redevelopment or reuse of the site is complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance or contaminant. Individual Grants will be limited to no more than \$200,000 per site. The deadline for submitting applications is August 31, 2020. Applications and questions can be directed to Michael McCluskey at michael.mccluskey@des.nh.gov or Melinda Bubier at melinda.bubier@des.nh.gov

2020 Funding for Drinking Water Infrastructure Projects

The New Hampshire Drinking Water and Groundwater Advisory Commission (Commission) has allocated up to \$30.9 million from the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund for loans and grants for the Special Projects Assistance Program, which targets drinking water infrastructure projects addressing contamination, time critical needs, economic hardship or associated with an extension of a public water system, and the Annual Drinking Water Construction Project Assistance Program (Annual Round). Special Project Assistance Program funding and special project applications can be submitted at any time and are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The Annual Round funding applications are due on September 10. Eligible applicants and projects are defined in the [Rules for Construction Projects](#) and include engineering and/or construction for drinking water related infrastructure projects including but not limited to contamination, growth and drinking water improvements. Funding decisions for the Annual Round are anticipated to be completed by late fall. More information is available at [Link to Construction Project Information](#).

What's Flushable?

Protect your sewer and septic systems in your town! Help NHDES educate your citizens in your community by sharing the NHDES What's Flushable? Brochure in electronic form on your web sites and social media sites. Let them know that only human waste and toilet paper are flushable. You can link to or download the [brochure](#) here: <https://getpumpednh.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/whats-flushable.pdf>

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

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