



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

October 2021

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](#).

Wetlands and Shoreland Permit Applications: Processing Guide for City and Town Clerks

A summary of city/town clerk responsibilities for shoreland or wetlands permit applications can be found in the revised guidance document [Wetlands and Shoreland Permit Applications: Processing Guide for City and Town Clerks](#).

2022 Local Source Water Protection Grant Applications Now Available

Local Source Water Protection Grant applications are available now and due **November 1, 2021**. Applicants can now be awarded up to \$25,000 for projects protecting drinking water sources or up to \$30,000 for projects that address climate change. For the Grant Application and Information Packet and more details, please visit the [Drinking Water Source Protection Program webpage](#). If you have any questions or would like to discuss your grant project idea, feel free to contact Bess Morrison at bess.morrison@des.nh.gov or call [\(603\) 271-2950](tel:603-271-2950).

Drinking Water & Wastewater Cybersecurity Webinar, November 8, 2021

On **November 8** from 1 to 2:30 PM, NHDES, EPA and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) are hosting a Drinking Water & Wastewater Cybersecurity Webinar. The webinar will cover cybersecurity basics, water sector cyber threats, tools and assistance, and an update on available funding to assist with cybersecurity improvements. Drinking water and wastewater operators can receive 1.5 Training Contact Hours for this event. [Registration link](#).

Water Loss and Audit Workshop on November 16

If you are a municipal public water system, come learn about ways your system could be losing water and revenue due to leaks, meter issues and data handling errors. This training will explore water loss control programs, including developing water loss goals and conducting water audits. It is planned for **November 16** at the NHDES office in Concord. To register, visit the [Environmental Finance Center's website](#). Any questions can be emailed to waterconservation@des.nh.gov.

Funding Opportunity Announcement: NH VW Environmental Mitigation Trust DCFC Infrastructure RFP

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), the designated lead agency for the implementation of programs and projects funded by the Volkswagen (VW) Environmental Mitigation Trust, has posted a notice regarding Request for Proposal (RFP) questions and an extension of the proposal due date to January 28, 2022 for the NH VW Environmental Mitigation Trust DCFC Infrastructure RFP to the NHDES website. For more information, see the [RFP notice](#). The RFP seeks qualified applicant(s) to install EVSE and provide associated operations, maintenance and management services for such EVSE along specified corridors in New Hampshire. The objective of this RFP is to receive qualified proposals for the installation, operation and maintenance of EVSE along the specified corridors. Funding for this solicitation is provided by New Hampshire's Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust and is consistent with the New Hampshire Beneficiary Mitigation Plan. For more information about the RFP, visit the [Volkswagen Mitigation Trust webpage](#).

Registration Open: NH Municipal Association Conference, November 17 to 19

Join NHDES and the Granite State Clean Cities Coalition at the New Hampshire Municipal Association Conference. We will be hosting a virtual session on Friday, **November 19**, entitled "Mobilizing Clean Transportation Communities: Low and Zero Emissions Fleet Strategies and Opportunities for NH Cities and Towns." Motor vehicles are the largest source of air pollution in New Hampshire and the Northeast, including pollutants that aggravate asthma and contribute to climate change. Low and zero-emission vehicles and equipment are the key to reducing those emissions. Learn how cleaner vehicles are being used in New Hampshire municipal and other fleets, and strategies to bring them to your community. This session will provide attendees with 1) examples of cleaner fuel applications and projects in New Hampshire; 2) current and future plans for alternative fuel/electric vehicle charging infrastructure and investments; and 3) available funding, incentives and procurement opportunities. [Registration link](#).

Do you know what your Solid Waste Facility Manager Should Know About Managing the Town's SW Permit(s)?

The NHDES Solid Waste Operator Training & Certification Program has developed a series of Facility Manager Level Classes to assist those operators with compliance issues as well as set their facility up for success. So far, there are three classes available, two of which are recorded and one with a series of tools and resources available online. [Part I](#) identifies recordkeeping, reporting and permit requirements; [Part II](#) covers full cost accounting for municipal solid waste facilities (see SWOT Webpage for the Excel spreadsheets); and [Part III](#) covers all post-closure care for landfills including monitoring and maintenance requirements. For information on all three of these classes as well as the full SWOT Curriculum, please visit the [SWOT Webpage](#). For more information, please contact Tara Mae Albert at Tara.M.Albert@des.nh.gov or [\(603\) 271-3713](tel:6032713713).

Funding Availability for FY 2022 Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund and Cleanup Grants

EPA has announced the availability of funds and is soliciting applications from eligible entities for Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) and Cleanup Grant funding. Grants and technical assistance are available to communities to assess, safely clean up and sustainably reuse contaminated properties. NHDES will also be applying for a statewide assessment grant and is looking for partner/target communities. If you have, or think you may have, a Brownfields site in your community that could benefit from assistance or are just curious to learn more about these opportunities, please contact: Michael McCluskey at Michael.G.McCluskey@des.nh.gov or [\(603\) 271-2183](tel:6032712183) or Melinda Bubier at Melinda.S.Bubier@des.nh.gov or [\(603\) 271-1169](tel:6032711169). The application deadline is **December 1, 2021**. More information can also be found here: [Multipurpose, Assessment, RLF, and Cleanup \(MARC\) Grant Application Resources | US EPA](#)

2022-2023 Drinking Water Works Operator License Renewal

Drinking Water Operator License renewals are due by **December 31, 2021**. The [NH Water Works Operator Certification Renewal](#) Form can be found on our Online Form System.. Applications received after December 31st will result in a \$25 late fee. The [Water Works Operator Certification Late Renewal Application](#) can also be found on our Online Forms Portal.. For more about Water Works Operator Certification, see the [certification webpage](#).

Information for Used Oil Burners

Often, municipal transfer stations and public works departments will heat their buildings with used oil that has either been collected from Do-It-Yourselfers or generated at the facility. If any of your municipal facilities burn used oil fuel for heat, you are required to notify NHDES of this activity. The [notification form](#) can be found on the [Used Oil Management Program website](#).

Financial Assistance for Heating Oil Tank Replacements

NHDES is looking to increase awareness of the [Safetank program](#) among New Hampshire 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" as defined by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Page 5 of the [Safetank application](#) contains the current income eligibility requirements. The program also has funding to assist low-income homeowners with the removal of residential underground heating oil tanks. 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](tel:6032713577), or Erik Paddleford at Erik.Paddleford@des.nh.gov or [\(603\) 271-3431](tel:6032713431).

2019-2020 NH Coastal Flood Risk Summary – Training Videos

The NHDES Coastal Program, in partnership with UNH Extension and NH Sea Grant, has released two short videos summarizing the [2019-2020 NH Coastal Flood Risk Summary](#). The [first video](#) summarizes key findings from the [Part I: Science](#) report, which provides an overview of best available science related to coastal flooding in New Hampshire and includes updated projections of sea-level rise, coastal storms, groundwater rise, extreme precipitation and freshwater flooding. The [second video](#) summarizes the [Part II: Guidance for Using Scientific Projections](#) report, which provides guiding principles and a seven-step process for incorporating the latest coastal flood risk projections into planning, regulatory, and site-specific projects and decisions. Both videos are available on the [NHDES YouTube Channel](#) and were funded, in part, by NOAA's Office for Coastal Management under the Coastal Zone Management Act in conjunction with the NHDES Coastal Program.

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

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