



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

December 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](#).

New Alteration of Terrain Rules regarding Protection of Threatened and Endangered Species

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services amended the rules regarding Alteration of Terrain (AoT) Permits (Env-Wq 1500). The amended rules specify when an applicant for an AoT permit must consult with the NH Fish and Game Department (NHFG) regarding threatened and endangered species. They also require that the project plans include wildlife protection notes and list the conservation measures recommended by NHFG to assure that the project meets the requirements of RSA 212-A:9, III. The amended rules have an **effective date of December 22, 2021** and can be viewed in our [online Administrative Rules library](#).

Water System Sustainability Grant Program

The 2022-2023 [Water System Sustainability Grant Program](#) is a group of grants intended to assist Community Water Systems (CWS) in developing programs that will ensure sustainable operations and identify possible improvements in technical, managerial and/or financial operations, also known as Capacity Development. This program includes grants for drinking water asset management, green projects such as water audits, energy audits and energy audit implementation, and strategic planning projects. Grant amounts, applicant matching and application timeframes are different for each funding opportunity. See specific grant category for more information. Grant deadlines are **January 7, 2021**. Please contact luis.adorno@des.nh.gov with questions.

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](#).

Household Hazardous Waste Coordinators Announcement

NHDES is now accepting requests for applications for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) grants for state fiscal year (FY) 2023 (July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023). This will be your only opportunity to obtain an HHW grant this coming fiscal year. Costs eligible for reimbursement include licensed contractor disposal costs, educational campaign addressing source reduction, reuse and recycling of household hazardous waste. The deadline for submitting a completed **grant application is February 1, 2022**. Please visit the NHDES HHW webpage to [download a grant application](#). Completed applications can be returned to hhw@des.nh.gov. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dean Robinson at [\(603\) 271-2047](tel:6032712047), or by email at dean.f.robinson@des.nh.gov.

Virtual New Hampshire 4th Grade Water Science Fair – Free

All New Hampshire elementary schools are eligible to send one 4th grade water science project to represent their school. Two students may work on one project together. Students will present projects virtually to a small panel of judges during the school day. We will contact you to arrange a time for your student(s) to present. **School registration deadline: February 18, 2022**. [Register online](#). Cash awards available.

[Rules and guidance available](#) on the [New Hampshire Drinking Water Festival and Science Fair website](#). (Student rules are on page 12.) [Water education videos](#) (organized by theme) are also available on the site. Questions? Contact Lara Hooper at lara.hooper@des.nh.gov. (To learn about our in-person Water Festival, Science Fair and Poetry Contest for 2023 and beyond, visit us at <https://nhwaterfestival.org>.)

Virtual New Hampshire Water Poetry Contest – Free

Open to all New Hampshire students in grades 3-5, including homeschoolers. Contest theme: Water & Me. **Submission deadline: April 8, 2022.** Contest guidelines, student entry form and submission information are on the [New Hampshire Drinking Water Festival and Science Fair website](#).. Cash awards available. [Water education videos](#) (organized by theme) are also available on the site. Questions? Contact Kim Kelliher at kim.c.kelliher@des.nh.gov. (To learn about our in-person Water Festival, Science Fair and Poetry Contest for 2023 and beyond, visit us at <https://nhwaterfestival.org>.)

Water Works Operator Certification Exams

Drinking Water Operator Certification examinations will be held on Tuesday, **April 26, 2022** at NHDES, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord. Applications for the exam are due 30 days prior to the examination. There is also an option to take a computer-based exam for Grades I-IV at various locations throughout the state at any time. For more about Water Works Operator Certification, see the [certification webpage](#).

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).

EPA Develops Free Online Training for Managing Asbestos at Schools

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) sets requirements for managing asbestos in schools. School districts have sometimes had difficulty finding and obtaining training on AHERA for their employees. EPA Region 5 has developed training through a webinar series called “How to Manage Asbestos in School Buildings.” This four-part webinar training series is designed to assist schools to understand their federal regulatory responsibilities under AHERA. It is available online for free. For the four-part asbestos training and many other asbestos management information resources, visit [EPA’s Asbestos and School Buildings webpage](#) and the [NHDES Asbestos in Schools website](#).

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](#).

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

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