



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

January 2022

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](#).

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 hww@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: **March 4, 2022**. [Register online](#). Cash awards available. [Student rules and teacher guide](#) and [water education videos](#) (organized by theme) are available at 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 and submission information](#) are available online along with [water education videos](#) (organized by theme). 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**, and Tuesday, **December 6, 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](#).

Notice to Solid Waste Facility Owners and Permittees – 2021 Annual Reporting Season is HERE

The 2021 [Annual Facility Report Form](#) for active solid waste facilities and [Post-Closure Report Form](#) for inactive solid waste landfills are available on the [Solid Waste Management Bureau Webpage](#). These reports are required to be submitted by March 31 of each year. Please submit the correct form for this year and for your facility type (active vs. closed landfill). The SWMB will be providing two virtual information sessions for you ask questions. We expect you to come with questions, NOT a blank form that you want us to fill out. For more information and to register, visit the [registration page](#). If you want to attend both sessions, you will have to register for both. When you have completed your form, please submit a PDF copy via email to solidwasteinfo@des.nh.gov or upload it to [OneStop](#). If you have questions, please contact the bureau at solidwasteinfo@des.nh.gov or [\(603\) 271-2925](tel:6032712925).

Do you have concerns about environmental exposures in your community?

In 2022, Lean on the APPLETREE (Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR's) Partnership to Promote Local Efforts to Reduce Environmental Exposure) Team in New Hampshire at NHDES and DPHS for help! Learn more about how to partner with us to keep your air, water, land, and loved ones healthy. For more information: view our [APPLETREE Program FAQ](#); [view our APPLETREE NH Municipal Association talk](#); or contact Robert Thistle by email at Robert.thistle@des.nh.gov.

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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