



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

February 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](#).

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 15, 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>.

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 31st** of each year. Please submit the correct form for this year and for your facility type (active vs. closed landfill). 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.

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>.)

Great Bay Living Shorelines Workshop

This virtual workshop is the culmination of a facilitated design process for living shorelines in Great Bay that involved 24 design professionals, UNH researchers, and staff from several agencies. The workshop will include presentations on four suggested living shoreline designs within Great Bay to illustrate how living shorelines can address diverse goals and site conditions. Registration to attend the **April 8, 2022** virtual workshop is open to all that are interested and can be found on the [NHCAW webpage](#).

Water Infrastructure Funding Workshop – April 11-15, 2022

The New Hampshire Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) Programs are hosting a Water Infrastructure Funding Workshop **April 11-15, 2022**. The workshop will include sessions focusing on funding programs administered by NHDES with topics including, funding program updates, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), federal provisions, stormwater, asset management and more! The intended audience includes current/future loan recipients, community/financial decision makers, public works directors, city/town managers, municipal and regional planners, consultants/engineers, operators, and others interested in the NHDES-administered funding programs. Registration information and a preliminary agenda will be available soon on the [SRF webpage](#). Questions/Contacts: Jennifer Brady, Wastewater, (603) 271-0734 or Jennifer.Brady@des.nh.gov; Kim Kelliher, Drinking Water, (603) 271-1408 or Kim.Kelliher@des.nh.gov

Accepting Critical Flood Risk Infrastructure Grant Applications

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program and Watershed Assistance Section are accepting Critical Flood Risk Infrastructure Grant applications for flood resilience and stormwater management projects located within one or more of New Hampshire's 42 Coastal Watershed communities. For instructions, evaluation criteria, and to access the application form, visit the [Critical Flood Risk Infrastructure Grant Program](#)

[webpage](#). Applications must be submitted using the online application form no later than 4:00 PM ET on Friday, **April 15, 2022**.

Water Works Operator Certification Exams

Water Works Operator Certification Exams Drinking Water Operator Certification Examinations will be held on **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](#).

Solid Waste Facility Operator Training and Certification Program

The NHDES SWOT Program is hosting two Virtual Basic Training Courses this Spring. All information including application forms, applicability, and registration links are on the [SWOT Webpage](#). There has been high turnover in this area, especially for municipalities, and NHDES wants to ensure that all permitted solid waste facilities are meeting the statutory requirement of having operators certified through the state. Additionally, anyone who supervises an operator who directly manages either a solid waste facility or solid waste at a solid waste facility shall be certified in accordance with [Env-Sw 1600](#). If you have questions or concerns, please contact the SWOT Program Coordinator Tara Albert at Tara.M.Albert@des.nh.gov.

Cybersecurity Infrastructure Improvement Grants

Now accepting applications for Cybersecurity Implementation Grants through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to support cybersecurity improvements to drinking water and/or wastewater systems. **Up to \$50,000 of grant funding** is available per drinking water or wastewater system. For more information and eligibility criteria, please visit: [Cybersecurity Improvements Assistance – NHDES Infrastructure Funding \(state.nh.us\)](#).

Electric Vehicle Purchasing Information

Municipalities, school systems and some nonprofits can purchase electric vehicles (EVs), and higher fuel-economy vehicles off the New Hampshire state contract. EVs make sense for light-duty fleet diversification and have been shown to have a lower total cost of ownership than conventional gasoline and diesel vehicles. Plus, there are the added benefits of using less energy and emitting less greenhouse gases and other air pollution. To see available vehicles, check out the [2022 Vehicle Index](#), which includes purchase price, a total-cost-of-ownership and fuel-economy values. The vehicle contract is located at this link on the [NH Administrative Services website](#), as Attachment 1. If you have questions regarding the contract process, please direct them to: Jeffrey.A.Haley@das.nh.gov. Questions concerning vehicles should go to the dealers.

Request for Proposals: The 2022 ARM Fund Grant Round is Now Open!

\$3,700,000 is Available for Wetland and Stream Preservation, Restoration and Enhancement Projects in Seven Service Areas. In 2021 there were 12.3 acres of wetland loss, 5,000 feet of bank and channel stream impacts, and 0.5 acres of wetland conversion that required compensatory mitigation and generated the available funds. Please view the [2022 ARM Fund Ledger .pdf](#) to understand the resource types and functions and values lost in each the watershed.

New Cold River water quality standards

In December 2021, a [Protected Instream Flow Study Report – Cold River \(R-WD-21-09\)](#) was completed. On January 25, 2022, the Protected Instream Flows described in the *Study* were [established](#) as new water quality standards for flow on the designated Cold River.

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.

Home and Property Repair and Improvement Grants

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Program is distributing funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for the Section 504 Home Repair program. This program provides loans to very-low-income homeowners to repair, improve or modernize their homes or grants to elderly very-low-income homeowners to remove health and safety hazards. Replacement of a failing septic system is an eligible activity under this program. For more information see <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/single-family-housing-programs/single-family-housing-repair-loans-grants/nh>.

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

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