



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

March 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](#).

Notice to Solid Waste Facility Owners and Permittees – Deadline is TODAY!

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). 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).

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](#) are available online. Questions/Contacts: Jennifer Brady, Wastewater, [\(603\) 271-0734](tel:6032710734) or Jennifer.Brady@des.nh.gov; Kim Kelliher, Drinking Water, [\(603\) 271-1408](tel:6032711408) or Kim.Kelliher@des.nh.gov

Deadline for Critical Flood Risk Infrastructure Grant Applications is April 15, 2022

Reminder that the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program and Watershed Assistance Section are currently accepting [Critical Flood Risk Infrastructure Grant](#) applications with a deadline to apply by **April 15, 2022**. Prospective applicants may be interested in viewing a [recording of the application webinar](#) held on **March 7, 2022** and reviewing a [summary of applicant questions and responses](#) relevant to the funding opportunity.

Water Works Operator Certification Exams

Water Works Operator Certification Exams 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](#).

Brownfields Summit

Join the NHDES Brownfields program at the Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEWMOA) Regional Brownfields Summit on **May 18 and 19** in Fort Devens, Mass., to advance understanding of states and federal

Brownfield programs and opportunities. Cleaning up and redeveloping Brownfields facilitates job growth, increases local tax bases, utilizes existing infrastructure and improves the environment. Conference information can be found on the [NEWMOA website](#).

2022 Annual Source Water Protection Conference – Scheduled!

Join us on Tuesday, **May 24**, and Wednesday, **May 25**, for this year's Source Water Protection Conference. The first day of the conference (May 24) will be held at the New Hampshire Army National Guard's new public conference space in Pembroke, while the second day will be held virtually. In-person attendance on May 24 will be limited to allow for spacing and masks are strongly encouraged. Topics to be presented include current research on PFAS in wastewater, efforts to reduce road salt use, funding local stormwater management structures, and evaluating the risks to source water from large oil or chemical spills. Check out the conference agenda at the American Ground Water Trust's website (www.agwt.org).

New Compost Facility Rules

On **March 22, 2022**, amendments to the [NH Code of Admin Rules for composting facilities](#) became effective. The rule changes are intended to clarify and simplify requirements for operating composting facilities in New Hampshire. They provide more flexibility for permit-by-notification composting facilities, and also add some key permit exemptions for small-scale food waste composting efforts. For questions related to composting rules, please contact Michael Nork at Michael.A.Nork@des.nh.gov or [\(603\) 271-2906](tel:6032712906).

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](#).

NH Geological Survey updated geologic map library

The New Hampshire Geological Survey has made more geologic maps and bulletins available on NHDES' [publications library](#). It is now possible to search by town name as keyword to find maps of your area. Maps will be displayed as a PDF file. If you would like a paper copy of a map or require other assistance with geologic resources, please email Rebecca.M.LeCain@des.nh.gov or call [\(603\) 271-1976](tel:6032711976).

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](#) to understand the resource types and functions and values lost in each watershed. See the [ARM Fund webpage](#) for the grant application package and more information.

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.

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

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