



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

April 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](#).

Instream Flow Program to hold Outreach Sessions on the designated Ashuelot River

The NHDES Instream Flow Program is currently contracting a Protected Instream Flow Study of the Ashuelot River, in order to determine its appropriate instream flows. Concurrent with this study, baseline temperature, conductivity and water level data are being collected by NHDES along the 65-mile designated reach to document “baseline” conditions. On **May 17 and 18, 2022**, NHDES Instream Flow staff will be setting aside an hour (1:00-2:00 PM, rain or shine) during datalogger deployment activities to meet with people interested in the Ashuelot River, the program and the ongoing study to join us during our deployment activities. We’ll show you the equipment we use to collect the environmental data, some of the data collected during last year’s work and the program’s approach to designated river protection. If you wish, you’ll be able to follow the staff to a deployment location and observe the process. [Details regarding the events](#) can be found on NHDES’ Instream Flow [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 state 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:(603)271-1976).

Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Project Pre-applications

NHDES is now accepting **pre-applications for the 2022 Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)** through **Wednesday, June 1, 2022, deadline**. CWSRF funding is available for: wastewater, stormwater, nonpoint source, watershed protection and restoration, and estuary management projects that contribute to the protection of public health and water quality. [CWSRF Pre-application](#). Send CWSRF pre-applications electronically to Kathie Bourret: Kathleen.Bourret@des.nh.gov.

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Project Pre-applications

NHDES is now accepting **pre-applications for the 2022 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)** through **Wednesday, June 1, 2022, deadline** (by midnight). DWSRF funding is available for community public water system/non-community and non-transient nonprofit public water system infrastructure projects. If you have any questions, please contact Johnna McKenna at Johnna.M.McKenna@des.nh.gov.

Coming Soon: Apply for Source Water Protection Land Grants

The New Hampshire Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund (DWGTF) will be accepting applications for its Source Water Protection Land Grant Program. Eligible applicants are municipalities, public water systems, land trusts, and other conservation organizations. Eligible projects for the grant are those to permanently protect undeveloped water supply land, including wellhead protection areas, hydrologic areas of concern, and land that is likely to benefit future water supply sources. An [eligibility application form and instructions](#) updated for 2022 will be available in late April/early May. Continue to monitor the SWP website for the most up-to-date forms. Another announcement will be sent out when the Grant Round officially opens. Email any questions to WSLP@des.nh.gov. The eligibility application due date is anticipated to be: **June 30, 2022**. The funding application due date is anticipated to be: **September 8, 2022**. Award decisions are expected by early December.

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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