



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

July 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](#).

Drought Update

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the entire state is experiencing drought conditions. NHDES is urging wise water conservation, such as limiting outdoor watering to before 8 AM and after 7 PM and restricting irrigation to every other day. Go to the [NHDES Drought website](#) to report restrictions, get updates on drought conditions, and to review guidance on implementing outdoor restrictions on water system customers and private well owners.

HB 1421 Reduces Allowable Lead in Drinking Water at Schools and Licensed Child Care Facilities

On **July 8, 2022**, Governor Sununu signed [House Bill \(HB\) 1421](#), "Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Licensed Child Care Facilities," which makes several changes to a 2018 law that requires New Hampshire schools and licensed child care facilities to test their drinking water for lead. Most significantly, HB 1421 decreases the allowable level of lead from 15 parts per billion (ppb) to 5 ppb. Under the new law, schools and child care facilities must correct all locations where previous testing results showed lead levels at or above 5 ppb. To support schools and child care facilities in meeting these requirements, NHDES has launched the Get the Lead Out of Drinking Water Program. The program provides resources and technical support to schools and child care facilities testing for and correcting sources of lead in drinking water. Visit gettheleadoutnh.org for more information.

New Funds Available! Brownfields Cleanup Grants

The NHDES Brownfields Program is making at least \$400,000 available for two or more Cleanup Grants and is soliciting applications from interested eligible entities. Individual Grants will be limited to no more than \$200,000 per site. The Cleanup Grants will provide funding to conduct cleanup activities on underutilized and abandoned properties where the redevelopment or reuse is complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance or contaminant. Additional information and applications are available on the [NHDES website](#).

Free Webinar: Granite State Clean Cities Invites NH Municipalities to Learn How to Fund and Deploy Electric Trash Trucks in Your Communities – September 1

Heavy-duty transportation electrification is making in-roads to municipal and commercial activities like trash removal. Electric Trash Trucks are in the market and on the road to zero-emission waste hauling. Join the Clean Cities Northern Tier Team to hear from a leading municipality that is refusing refuse pollution and increasing efficiency by transitioning to Zero-Emissions Refuse Haulers. Learn about the steps, costs and benefits from the perspective of a Fleet Manager. Peer under the lid with manufacturers to see their current and coming products and projects. Connect with opportunities to fund and deploy Electric Refuse Haulers in your community. Join us for this Free Webinar on Thursday, **September 1** at 10:30 AM ET. [Registration link](#).

Public Hearing & Comment Period – Expansion of the Nashua Four Hills Secure Landfill Expansion

NHDES is seeking public comment on an application for expansion of the Four Hills Secure Landfill Expansion located in Nashua, NH. A public hearing to receive oral testimony on this application has been scheduled for **September 7, 2022**, beginning at 6 PM. The public comment period for this application is scheduled to close on **September 23, 2022**. Additional details can be found in the [Public Notice for Four Hills Secure Landfill Expansion](#).

Funds Available Through NH Clean Diesel Grant Program

NHDES has approximately \$1,400,000 of funding available through the New Hampshire Clean Diesel Grant Program. This program provides partial funding for local/state governments and businesses operating in New Hampshire to reduce emissions through replacement or upgrade of diesel-powered vehicles, engines and equipment or through installation of idle reduction technologies. This Request for Proposals closes **September 9, 2022**, at 4:00 PM; if funding remains after project selection, proposals submitted by **November 1, 2022**, will be considered. For more information, visit the [NH State Clean Diesel Program webpage](#).

2022 Annual Drinking Water Construction Project Assistance Program Update

Reminder to community water system owners, operators and managers that the deadline for the 2022 Annual Drinking Water Construction Projects Assistance Program is **October 14**. The annual program is focused on loan and/or grant funding assistance for drinking water system improvement projects. The [2022 Annual Award Plan](#) outlines the program eligibility and application requirements. Applications will be accepted electronically through the online forms until midnight on October 14. For more information, visit [the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund website](#).

2023 Local Source Water Protection Grant Applications Now Available

Local Source Water Protection Grant applications are available now and due **November 1, 2022**. Applicants can be awarded up to \$25,000 for projects protecting drinking water sources or up to \$30,000 for projects that address climate change. For the Grant Application and Information Packet and more details, please visit the [grant webpage](#). If you have any questions or would like to discuss your grant project idea, feel free to contact Melissa Macheras at Melissa.E.Macheras@des.nh.gov or call [\(603\) 271-2950](tel:(603)271-2950).

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 the [Cybersecurity Improvements Assistance webpage](#).

Is your solid waste facility properly staffed and trained?

In New Hampshire, all permitted solid waste facilities shall be operated by certified individuals per [RSA 149-M:9,VI](#). According to [Env-Sw 1602.01](#), that applies anyone who directly operates the facility or handles and manages solid waste at the facility. Additionally, it includes anyone who directly supervises the person(s). As the permittee, the municipality needs to ensure compliance with these regulations. NHDES has found that the facilities that comply with this have a better grasp of the needs of the facility as well. Information regarding the SWOT Program including the certification application, class schedule and additional requirements are all on the [SWOT Webpage](#).

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).

Water Works Operator Certification Exams – December 6

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

New Hampshire Environmental Health Guide (NH-EHG)

The NH APPLETREE (the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's Partnership to Promote Local Efforts to Reduce Environmental Exposures) Team invites you to explore the New Hampshire Environmental Health Guide (NH-EHG) and its accompanying training video! In November 2021, our project team met with town and legislative stakeholders to better understand their communities. We sought to help answer the

question: "When your community has environmental health questions, where do you find the answers?"

The [NH Environmental Health Guide](#) (NH-EHG) is a table of resources developed to help legislators, city and town health offices, municipal officials, administrators, and other stakeholders quickly and accurately find the right state resource to address environmental concerns raised by your community. This [training video](#) introduces the audience to partners available to assist them and reviews examples of how to use the NH-EHG. Please expect periodic updates as new resources become available, and please reach out to APPLETREE with questions or suggestions for improvements (Robert.Thistle@des.nh.gov).

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

To receive press releases and other publications of the NH Department of Environmental Services via email, please sign up [on our newsletter subscription page](#).