



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

August 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](#), most of the state is experiencing drought conditions. NHDES is urging 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 review guidance on implementing 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](#).

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 Salt Symposium

The 2022 Salt Symposium will be held on Tuesday, **September 13** at the New Hampshire Motor Speedway in Loudon. This all-day event is an excellent opportunity for snow and ice management professionals to attend informational sessions, network with peers, and engage with several vendors. See full agenda and register at [NHSS \(sima.org\)](https://www.nhss.org)

Solid Waste Operator Basic Training

The SWOT Program is hosting a Basic Training class on **September 13**. As a reminder, anyone who operates a permitted solid waste facility must be certified through NHDES. Furthermore, applications for certification must be submitted within 30 days of hire. Information on SWOT, the Basic Training and applications for certification can be found on the [SWOT webpage](#). For questions, please contact Tara Albert, SWOT Coordinator, at Tara.M.Albert@des.nh.gov.

Source Water Protection Presentations on Tuesday, September 20, 4 PM to 5:30 PM

The NHDES Source Water Protection Programs are offering a pair of online presentations that will provide an overview of available funding opportunities for projects that protect drinking water sources. Presentations will include one on the Local Source Water Protection Grant Program, which provides grants up to \$25,000 for communities to complete projects that will protect current or planned sources of drinking water, and on the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund Source Water Land Protection Grant Program, which provides funding for the permanent conservation of valuable source water protection land. Both presentations will include information about eligibility, the application process, examples of past projects, and tips for submitting an outstanding application. This program is free to NHACC members. Email Melissa Macheras at Melissa.E.Macheras@des.nh.gov for Zoom registration link.

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](#).

Climate, Water, Wildlife and Resilience Workshop

Project WET and Project WILD are offering a teacher professional development workshop about climate change on **October 21, from 9 AM to 4 PM**. The workshop is designed for middle and high school teachers (formal, informal, home school) who want to incorporate climate activities and discussions in their lessons. This topic impacts all school subjects, not just science! Teachers of all subjects are welcome. [Register link](#).. For more information, contact lindsay.webb@wildlife.nh.gov.

2023 Local Source Water Protection Grant Applications Now Available

Local Source Water Protection Grant applications are available now and due **November 1**. 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:6032712950).

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](#).

Air Permitting - General State Permits for Emergency Generators

Any municipal buildings planning to install an emergency generator or fire pump must notify the NHDES Air Resources Division prior to installation. If your school, fire or police station, town hall, or library is operating emergency generators with a combined total design gross heat input greater than or equal to 1.5 MMBtu/hr, a General State Permit is required. For more information regarding General State Permit applications, please contact Ash Bustead at Ash.L.Bustead@des.nh.gov or [\(603\) 271-6828](tel:6032716828).

2022 EPA Clean Watersheds Needs and NHDES Stormwater Needs Survey

The [2022 Clean Watersheds Needs Survey](#) (CWNS) is a national survey that assesses the capital investment needed to meet the water quality goals of the Clean Water Act. Stormwater needs are included in this year's survey, and we are asking municipalities to contribute their data for an accurate assessment. This is an opportunity to showcase what significant need there is in our state for funding for stormwater management. NHDES is leveraging the opportunity to collect additional non-CWNS eligible needs. Stormwater and hydromodification project data are being collected by Comprehensive Environmental, Inc., (CEI) on behalf of the NHDES Watershed Management Bureau. When CEI reaches out to you, please respond by taking the survey! Wastewater project information is being collected separately through the NHDES Wastewater Engineering Bureau. For more information, check out the [NHDES CWNS webpage](#).

Back to School... Is Your School AHERA Compliant?

As students and faculty return to school, make sure your schools' Asbestos Management Plans are up-to-date and in compliance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), 40 CFR 763, Subpart E. The purpose of AHERA is to ensure that local educational agencies (LEAs) safely manage asbestos containing building materials (ACBM) found in schools, to ensure students, faculty and the general public are not exposed to asbestos. This brochure outlines the [responsibilities of all public, non-profit private, and charter schools](#) in the State of New Hampshire regarding AHERA. NHDES urges all schools to provide a safe and healthy educational environment. For more information, please visit the [NHDES Asbestos in Schools webpage](#), or contact the [NHDES Asbestos Management Program](#) at [\(603\) 271-4555](tel:6032714555).

Water Works Operator Certification Exams – December 6

Water Works Operator Certification Exams will be held on **December 6**, 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 webpage](#).

2022 Aqueous Fire Fighting Foam Take Back Program update

AFFF (aqueous firefighting foam) contains carcinogenic "forever chemicals" that make their way into our groundwater. Municipal fire departments were contacted by NHDES this summer to collect an inventory of their current Class B AFFF product on hand. If you have not responded to us yet or if we missed your fire department during our calls, please contact us to participate in this free program ASAP! NHDES plans to have a contractor come to your county this Fall to pick up your container inventories. Please contact Andy Gould for questions or to add your fire department's inventory to the list: Andrew.M.Gould@des.nh.gov or call [\(603\) 271-6424](tel:6032716424).

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

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