



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

September 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](#), much of the southern part 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.

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](#).

NH Surplus Property Live Auction

Reuse of items reduces waste. There can be some great finds through the NH State auctions! The next LIVE auction will be held on Saturday **October 15, 2022**, at the NH Surplus – White Farm facility in Concord NH. Gates open at 7am. The NH Surplus facility is located at 144 Clinton Street, Concord NH. You can preview items that will be up for sale on Friday **October 14, 2022**, from 8am to 3pm. For up-to-date information, visit the [NH Surplus website](#). If you are unable to make the live auction, the NH Surplus facility also hosts online auctions throughout the year on 2-week rotations.

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.

Municipal Junk Yard Program Assistance

State law (RSA 236:111-129) gives municipalities the responsibility and authority to issue a license to operate, establish and maintain a junkyard or automotive recycling yard within their community. NHDES was tasked with providing the [Best Management Practices \(BMPs\)](#) for these motor vehicle recyclers to follow. Starting this fall the [NHDES Motor Vehicle Salvage Yard Program](#) is offering to assist municipalities developing their junkyard licensing and inspection programs. This includes offering inspection walk throughs with municipalities. For more information, please contact Laurel Pushee, Motor Vehicle Salvage Yard Coordinator, at 603-271-2938 or via e-mail at laurel.c.pushee@des.nh.gov.

Wastewater State Aid Grant (SAG) Applications

In order to take advantage of recently appropriated funds, the NHDES Wastewater State Aid Grant (SAG) program requests that municipalities who have yet to submit a [grant application](#) for all completed wastewater infrastructure projects that maintained SAG eligibility do so as soon as possible. It is requested that grant applications for SAG-eligible projects be submitted within one year of final completion.

Additional information can be found at <https://www.des.nh.gov/business-and-community/loans-and-grants/wastewater-state-aid-grants>, or reach out to Nina Buckman at christina.m.buckman@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-3448.

Funds Available Through NH Clean Diesel Grant Program – Round 2 Available Now!

NHDES has approximately \$1,400,000 of funding available through the NH Clean Diesel Grant Program. This program provides partial funding to projects in New Hampshire which reduce emissions through replacement or upgrade of diesel-powered vehicles, engines, and equipment or through installation of idle reduction technologies. Round 2 closes **November 1, 2022**, at 4 PM; if funding remains after project selection, proposals submitted by 1/1/23 will be considered for Round 3. For more information, visit the [NH State Clean Diesel Program webpage](#).

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).

NPDES Permitting – Dewatering and Remediation General Permit

On **August 2, 2022**, EPA finalized the Dewatering and Remediation General Permit (DRGP) under the NPDES program. The DRGP is a combined reissuance of the Remediation General Permit (RGP) and the Dewatering General Permit (DGP). Information regarding the permit can be found on EPA's website:

<https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/dewatering-and-remediation-general-permit-drgp> or by reaching out to Shauna Little at EPA Region 1 (little.shauna@epa.gov, 617-918-1989).

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](#).

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](#).

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

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