



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

November 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](#).

Public Hearing and Comment Period – Standard Permit Application for Greater Waste Solutions, LLC.

NHDES is seeking public comments on a Standard Permit Application for a Collection, Storage, and Transfer (C/S/T) Facility from Greater Waste Solutions, LLC. located in Greenville, NH. A public hearing to receive oral testimony on this application has been scheduled for **November 30, 2022**, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The public comment period for this application is scheduled to close on **December 16, 2022**. Additional details can be found in the [Public Notice for Greater Waste Solutions LLC](#).

2022 EPA Clean Watersheds Needs and NHDES Stormwater Needs Survey

Help bring funding to New Hampshire for stormwater management! The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) [2022 Clean Watersheds Needs Survey](#) (CWNS) assesses the capital investment needed to meet the water quality goals of the Clean Water Act. EPA uses the survey results to allocate money to the states through grant and loan programs. This is an opportunity to showcase what significant need there is in New Hampshire for funding stormwater infrastructure and program management! In addition to CWNS, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) is collecting additional non-CWNS eligible needs. Data are being collected by Comprehensive Environmental, Inc. on behalf of NHDES Watershed Management Bureau. (CWNS Wastewater data are being collected separately through the NHDES Engineering Wastewater Bureau.) The survey deadline is **December 2, 2022**. To participate and for more information, please visit the NHDES [New Hampshire State Stormwater Needs Survey](#) page.

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 webpage](#).

Funds Available Through NH Clean Diesel Grant Program – Round 3 Available Now!

NHDES has approximately \$900,000 of funding available through the New Hampshire 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 3 closes January 1, 2023 at 4:00 PM. For more information, visit the [NH State Clean Diesel Program webpage](#).

FREE – NH 4th Grade Water Science Fair, Drinking Water Festival and 3rd-5th Grade Water Poetry Contest

Three events – New Hampshire schools may participate in one or all! At the Festival, fourth-grade students will spend the day learning about water quality, conservation, pollution, wildlife and many other water-related topics. Activities are hands-on and students interact with professionals in fields of science, technology, engineering and math. For the New Hampshire state-level Water Science Fair, fourth-graders will conduct research, create an exhibit, write a report and present their findings to a panel of judges. There are a variety of ways the school-level fair can be configured. Guide booklet available. We are happy to discuss ways your school can participate. The Festival and Water Science Fair are free to registered schools and will take place on **May 10, 2023**, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Keene, NH. Registration deadline: **January 31, 2023**. Space is limited. Students in third through fifth grades, homeschooled and in traditional classes, may participate in the Water Poetry Contest. The theme this year is "Water Rising." Submission

deadline: **March 31, 2023**. For more information on all three events and to register, visit [our website](#) or contact Lara Hooper at [\(603\) 271-4071](tel:6032714071) or lara.hooper@des.nh.gov.

Culvert Removal, Replacement and Restoration Grants

The Federal Highway Administration has released a Notice of Funding Opportunity for the National Culvert Removal, Replacement and Restoration Grants. This program is an annual competitive grant program that awards grants to eligible entities for the replacement, removal and repair of culverts or weirs that meaningfully improve or restore fish passage for anadromous fish. Anadromous fish species are born in freshwater such as streams and rivers, spend most of their lives in the marine environment, and migrate back to freshwater to spawn. Eligible entities include states, tribes and local government units. Applications are due Monday, **February 6, 2023**. More information is available on the [Federal Highway Administration website](#).

Get the Lead Out of Drinking Water Program

NHDES has created the Get the Lead Out of Drinking Water program to support schools and child care facilities in completing their required lead in drinking water testing. All facilities can receive technical support, and public schools and licensed child care facilities can receive free sample analyses. For more information and to view testing results, visit www.gettheleadoutnh.org.

2022 Aqueous Film Forming Foam Take Back Program update

Aqueous film forming foam (AFFF), used in firefighting, contains carcinogenic “forever chemicals” that make their way into our groundwater. NHDES is exploring all disposal options, including emerging technologies that can destroy these “forever chemicals.” NHDES has run into some permitting and contracting hurdles along the way, so please bear with us. Although a little later than anticipated, NHDES plans to have a contractor come to your county late Winter/ early Spring to pick up your container inventories. Please contact Andy Gould for questions: Andrew.M.Gould@des.nh.gov or call [\(603\) 271-6424](tel:6032716424). More information can be found on the [AFFF Take Back Program webpage](#).

Federal Grant Funding Announced for Solid Waste Management and Infrastructure

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released new recycling grant opportunities funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. [Recycling Education and Outreach grant program](#): Towns and cities can apply for grants between \$250,000 and \$2 million to improve consumer education and outreach on waste prevention, reuse, recycling, and composting. [Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling grant program](#): Towns and cities can apply for grants between \$500,000 and \$4 million to improve materials management and infrastructure for recycling and composting. **Deadline & Timing**: Applications for both programs are due January 16, 2023. The estimated start date for projects awarded grants is October 2023, and all project activities must be completed within three years.

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](tel:6032712938) or via email to 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 that 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 on the [Wastewater SAG webpage](#) or reach out to Nina Buckman at christina.m.buckman@des.nh.gov or [\(603\) 271-3448](tel:6032713448).

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](#) or by reaching out to Shauna Little at EPA Region 1 (little.shauna@epa.gov, [\(617\) 918-1989](tel:6179181989)).

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 to 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).

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](#).