



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

December 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](#).

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](#).

Water Infrastructure Funding Workshop – April 10-14, 2023

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) is hosting a Water Infrastructure Funding Workshop **April 10-14, 2023**. The workshop will include sessions focusing on funding programs administered by NHDES with topics including, funding program updates, Build America Buy America (BABA) and other federal provisions, cybersecurity, asset management and more! The intended audience includes current/future loan recipients, community/financial decision makers, public works directors, city/town managers, municipal and regional planners, consultants/engineers, operators, and others interested in the NHDES-administered funding programs. Registration information and a preliminary agenda will be available soon on the State Revolving Fund (SRF) [webpage](#). If you have questions, please contact either Kim Kelliher, Kim.C.Kelliher@des.nh.gov or Jennifer Brady, Jennifer.E.Brady@des.nh.gov.

Pollution Prevention Workshops for Art and Science Teachers

Workshop for Middle & High School Science Faculty, Administrators, and Facility Operations Managers – School Chemical Safety for Science and Art Classrooms – **April 11, 2023 and April 13, 2023**. The trainings will be held in Claremont and Littleton and the cost \$35 per session. Contact Victoria Davis with the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission for more information at vdavis@uvlsrpc.org. Topics include Integrating Safe Practices into your Lab, Safe Storage and Chemical Management, Chemical Hazard Risk Minimization, Identifying and Fixing Unsafe Situations, Getting Started on a Chemical Hygiene Plan, Overview of Safety Laws and Regulations, Options for Proper, Safe Waste Management. Registration Links are at the following: [Art Teacher \(Littleton\)](#), [Art Teacher \(Claremont\)](#), [Science Teacher \(Littleton\)](#) and [Science Teacher \(Claremont\)](#).

Water Works Operator Certification Exams

Drinking Water Operator Certification examinations will be held on Tuesday, **April 25, 2023** and Tuesday, **December 5, 2023**, 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 [Water Works Operator Certifications](#).

Household Hazardous Waste Program Assessment

New Hampshire has had an active Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program since 1991. As with everything it has grown and evolved with time, and we are currently doing an assessment of the program to see if there are ways we can make it better. As one of our municipalities that holds HHW events we would like to hear about your experiences by filling out a short [questionnaire](#).

Solid Waste Facility Annual Facility Report (AFR) and Post Closure Report (PCR) Drop-In Sessions

The Solid Waste Management Bureau (SWMB) Staff will be available to answer questions from solid waste facility representatives regarding completing that year's AFR for active solid waste facilities. Staff will also be available to field questions regarding PCRs for inactive solid waste landfills - these questions may be relayed to other NHDES staff members if necessary. To attend, you must [register](#) for the session. These are work sessions so please bring your questions to the table **after** reviewing the form, which will be posted to the [SWMB Website](#) by the first week in January. Please do NOT use the 2021 Reporting Year Form for this year's report as it will be rejected.

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.

Household Hazardous Waste Grants

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services is now accepting requests for applications for Household Hazardous Waste grants for State Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 (**July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024**). Costs eligible for matching grant funds include contractor HHW disposal costs and an educational campaign addressing source reduction, reuse and recycling of household hazardous waste. The deadline for submitting a completed grant application is **February 1, 2024**. The grant application can be downloaded from the [NHDES HHW Page](#). For more information, please contact the HHW Program at (603) 271-2047, or by email at hww@des.nh.gov

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.

Aboveground Petroleum Storage Tanks - NHDES Approval and Installation Requirements

NHDES is looking to increase awareness of regulated Aboveground Storage Tanks (ASTs) storing petroleum in the state. Any business storing petroleum in a single AST with a capacity of 660 gallons or greater or a combination of ASTs with a capacity exceeding 1,320 gallons, including 55-gallon drums (for example, 25 petroleum storing 55-gallon drums is a regulated facility due to a combined storage of 1,375 gallons), must register their facility using the [AST Registration](#), unless the AST(s) have a capacity no greater than 1,320 gallons and are storing petroleum for on-premises heating only. Additionally, any business installing an AST intended to store petroleum having a capacity greater than 660 gallons must submit an [AST Application](#) and plans, stamped by a New Hampshire Professional Engineer, to the Waste Management Division of NHDES for construction review/approval a minimum of 45 days prior to installation. This includes an emergency electrical generator having an AST capacity as previously described. NHDES provides a [Sample Plan](#) specific to emergency electrical generators to assist owners and engineers in the required submission. It is unlawful to install and to operate an AST and/or emergency generator without prior approval from NHDES. For more information on the AST application, plan and approval process, please contact Chad Hayes at Chad.M.Hayes@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-0686. For additional information related to the registration and compliance of ASTs, please contact Matt Jones at Matthew.A.jones@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-2986.

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.

Guidebook to Federal Inflation Reduction Act

The White House just released a public [guidebook](#) for the Inflation Reduction Act along with a corresponding data file, which available on the guidebook [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 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](#).

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

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