



## The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

February 2023

*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](#).

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### Request for Proposals: The 2023 Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund Grant Round is Now Open!

\$4,849,100 is available for wetland and stream restoration and enhancement projects in four service areas. The [ARM Fund Program](#) manages a fund comprised of mitigation payments made to offset unavoidable impacts to aquatic resources associated with permits issued. Competitive grants fund projects that restore, enhance and preserve aquatic resources and associated upland buffers across [nine watersheds, also called service areas](#). To learn more and review application materials, please visit the program [website](#) or email [des.arm@des.nh.gov](mailto:des.arm@des.nh.gov).

### Workshop Regarding Funding Opportunities for New Hampshire's Connecticut River Valley and Coastal Communities

A **March 23, 2023** [half-day workshop](#) will provide a preview of current state and federal funding opportunities, as well as highlight two National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant announcements that support project work in coastal New Hampshire and the Connecticut River Valley.

### FREE – NH 3rd-5th Grade Water Poetry Contest

Students in third through fifth grades, home schooled and in traditional classes, are invited to participate in the Water Poetry Contest. The theme this year is “Water Rising.” Submission deadline: **March 31, 2023**. For more information, visit our website or contact Lara Hooper at [\(603\) 271-4071](tel:6032714071) or [lara.hooper@des.nh.gov](mailto:lara.hooper@des.nh.gov).

### Funds Available Through NH Clean Diesel Grant Program – Round 3 Extended, 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 that reduce emissions through replacement or upgrade of diesel-powered vehicles, engines and equipment or through installation of idle reduction technologies. Round 3 closes **March 31, 2023**, at 4 p.m. For more information, visit the [NH State Clean Diesel Program webpage](#).

### Water Infrastructure Funding Workshop – April 10-14, 2023

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](mailto:Kim.C.Kelliher@des.nh.gov) or Jennifer Brady, [Jennifer.E.Brady@des.nh.gov](mailto:Jennifer.E.Brady@des.nh.gov).

### Pollution Prevention Workshops for Art and Science Teachers

“School Chemical Safety for Science and Art Classrooms,” a workshop for middle and high school science faculty, administrators and facility operations managers – will be held **April 11 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](mailto: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” and “Options for Proper, Safe Waste Management.” Registration Links are at the following: [Art Teacher \(Littleton\)](#), [Art Teacher \(Claremont\)](#), [Science Teacher \(Littleton\)](#) and [Science Teacher \(Claremont\)](#).

### **Citizen Air Monitoring Program (CAMP) for Particulate Matter**

NHDES has a new, [citizen scientist program](#) designed to connect private PurpleAir® fine particulate matter sensor owners with air pollution experts at NHDES. This is a voluntary and free program that aids in PurpleAir® sensor installation, maintenance and data quality.

### **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 our [Water Works Operator Certifications](#) webpage.

### **PFAS Removal Rebate Program for Private Wells**

The [NHDES PFAS Removal Rebate Program](#) for Private Wells is accepting applications. This one-time rebate is available for single or multi-use residential properties with a private well that have an exceedance of one or more of the four NHDES Ambient Groundwater Quality Standards (AGQS) for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and have not been offered an alternate water source (bottled water, treatment, or service connection) from a third party. Eligible applicants may be provided a rebate for up to \$5,000 for the installation of PFAS treatment (point-of-use or point-of-entry) or up to \$10,000 for a service connection to a public water system.

### **Solid Waste Operator Training Courses**

The NHDES Solid Waste Operator Training & Certification Program will be offering in-person classes between May 15 and September 1. Information including dates and class descriptions will be updated on the [SWOT Webpage](#). All questions should be directed to Tara Mae Albert at [Tara.M.Albert@des.nh.gov](mailto:Tara.M.Albert@des.nh.gov).

### **New Resources for Docks: Save Time and Money**

In cities and towns across the Granite State, many dock owners are benefiting from a new voluntary registration process. Voluntary registration is an alternative to getting a permit for every repair or replacement of existing non-tidal permanent docking structures. In addition, it offers an easier way to prove compliance with certain state statutes and rules, whenever you buy or sell properties that include these structures. It is easier and less expensive than other existing wetlands permit options. See a [map of currently registered docks](#). To register your dock, use our [Non-Tidal Docking Structures Registration Form](#).

### **Cybersecurity Infrastructure Improvement Grants**

Drinking water and wastewater systems are encouraged to take advantage of cybersecurity grant funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). **Up to \$50,000 of grant funding** is available per drinking water or wastewater system to implement cybersecurity improvements. The approval process has been streamlined through a revised application, making the process simple and straightforward. For more information, please visit the [Cybersecurity Improvements Assistance webpage](#).

### **Attention: Schools Receiving ESSER Funds!**

If schools in your municipality are recipients of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) grant funds for facility repairs and improvements, NHDES wants to inform you that most renovation and demolition activities in schools are subject to regulations under the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). Regulations for AHERA can be found at [40 CFR 763, Subpart E](#). For questions about AHERA-related requirements, please contact Anne M. Keach at [\(603\) 271-4555](tel:(603)271-4555), or [anne.m.keach@des.nh.gov](mailto:anne.m.keach@des.nh.gov).

### **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](http://www.gettheleadoutnh.org).

### **Learn about Beavers**

Beaver dam nation? Populations of this valuable natural resource are healthy and abundant across much of northern New England. They have few natural predators, live relatively long lives, and sometimes get mistaken for muskrats despite being much larger and having much wider tails! If you have a safety or property damage concern about a beaver dam near you, and it is not on your property, please contact the property owner to resolve it. Nonlethal options include hand-installed water level control devices (sometimes called beaver pipes), floating debris booms, and regular inspections and maintenance. If you want to remove a beaver dam completely or partially on your property, or use other device controls, please contact us at [\(603\) 271-2147](tel:6032712147). In some cases, you will need a permit. Before attempting any lethal methods, we recommend contacting New Hampshire Fish and Game. For more information about beavers and their habitats, visit [the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department website](#)

### **Geospatial Data Resources and Mapping Training**

Would you like to learn more about our free geospatial data resources and other mapping tools? Join us Wednesday, March 8, for an introductory online training. Hosted by NH Association of Conservation Commissions, the session will cover our Wetlands Permit Planning Tool and other valuable ways to access and interpret natural resource data. [Register on Zoom](#)

### **Land Resources Management Bureau Customer Satisfaction Survey**

If you have ever needed a permit to work in or near wetlands, protected shoreland, septic systems, or terrain alteration, we'd love to hear from you. Please consider completing our 3-minute [customer satisfaction survey](#). Thank you for your feedback!

### **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](mailto:christina.m.buckman@des.nh.gov) or [\(603\) 271-3448](tel:6032713448).

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