



## The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

March 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](#). For more details please [register for our information session April 5](#), review the [2023 ARM Grant Pro-Proposal Form and Guidance](#) or visit the [Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund](#) area of our website.

### 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 are available on the [NHDES website](#). 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@uvlsrc.org](mailto:vdavis@uvlsrc.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.

### Source Water Protection Conference, May 16

NHDES will hold its 2023 Source Water Protection Conference on May 16 (in-person) in Pembroke, New Hampshire. The conference will feature a full day of presentations concerning US EPA's PFAS National

Strategic Roadmap, state legislative and drinking water program funding updates, research on the distribution and fate of PFAS in surface water, monitoring for cyanobacteria in drinking water sources, partnering to conserve critical water supply lands, and guidance on how to craft municipal codes to reduce water use during drought and improve local groundwater protection. For further information, Technical Credit Hours (TCHs) for NH Water Operators, and to register, please visit the [American Ground Water Trust's website](#).

### **Invite - Green Your Fleet Event at NH Motor Speedway & NASCAR Track, June 9**

The Granite State Clean Cities Coalition presents Green Your Fleet! (GYF) an Alternative Fuel and Electric Vehicle and Infrastructure Event on Friday, June 9, 2023 at the New Hampshire Motor Speedway. Learn from fleet managers and industry experts how to transition commercial and municipal vehicles and equipment in your fleet, business, town, city, or school, to biodiesel, electric, natural gas, propane, telematics, solar, etc. Join us for this one-day event and demonstration with networking, breakout sessions, exhibits and demonstrations, an on/off-road vehicle and equipment showcase on the infield, and a thrilling ride-and-drive on the NASCAR racetrack. Learn more on the [Granite State Clean Cities Coalition website](#).

### **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.

### **2023 Dam Inspections to Begin Soon**

A letter has recently been sent to all dam owners whose dams are up for inspection this year. Dam inspections will begin in April and are expected to occur through the fall. If you receive a letter and want to be present at the inspection, please let us know by either emailing us at [damsafety@des.nh.gov](mailto:damsafety@des.nh.gov) or calling (603) 271-3406 to provide a name and contact information. For guidance on dam-related requirements, please check out [Dam Safety, Maintenance and Management webpage](#).

### **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:6032714555), 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).

### **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!

### **Learn More about Wetlands**

Do you sometimes see extra water on your property, such as after a heavy rain or snowmelt? When it comes to trapping and slowly releasing surface water, nothing works as well as wetlands. Working as natural sponges, wetlands help people in many ways, including flood storage. Your extra surface water will naturally recede over time, and there should be no cause for concern. For more information on New Hampshire wetlands, visit [our website](#).

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