



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

May 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](#).

Public Pool Registrations Required!

Owners and operators of public bathing facilities (PBFs) are required by New Hampshire law to register all existing and new public pools or spas with the state, conduct an annual fee-based self-certification of each existing facility and certify that the PBF is operated under the supervision of a certified pool operator. An online registration form is now available on our [PBF Registration Form webpage](#). The annual self-certification fee is \$250 per PBF (regardless of size) up to a maximum of \$1,500 annually for any facility that has more than six PBFs. The online form and payment instructions are available on the [PBF annual Self-Certification Form webpage](#). To learn more about the program, please visit the [NHDES Public Bathing Facility Program webpage](#).

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Project Pre-applications

NHDES is now accepting [pre-applications](#) for the 2023 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) through **Thursday, June 1, 2023, deadline** (by midnight). DWSRF funding is available for community public water system/non-community and non-transient nonprofit public water system infrastructure projects. If you have any questions, please contact Johnna McKenna at Johnna.M.McKenna@des.nh.gov or [\(603\) 271-7017](tel:6032717017).

NH Solid Waste Management Rules listening session – June 5

On Monday, **June 5, 2023**, NHDES' Solid Waste Management Bureau is hosting an online input session for the public to share their ideas and concerns regarding the NH Solid Waste Management Rules, specifically, [Chapter Env-Sw 300, Solid Waste Program: Permits](#). This public input session will include a brief discussion of the existing rules, ideas under consideration, and opportunity for public input. Informed by this input session and the comment period that follows it, NHDES will draft proposed rule amendments that will then enter the formal rulemaking process. Please note that there will be future opportunities to provide public comment during the formal rulemaking process. To register to attend the public input session and for additional information on where to submit comments, see the [notice of public input session](#).

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 and Expo on Friday, **June 9, 2023** at the New Hampshire Motor Speedway. Learn from fleet managers and industry experts how to transition light-duty to heavy-duty municipal and commercial vehicles and equipment in your fleet, business, town, city, or school, to electric, biodiesel, natural gas, propane, etc. Join us on the infield for coffee and networking, a keynote address from the U.S. Department of Energy, an update on federal funding for electric vehicle charging infrastructure, a yummy lunch, vendor exhibits, a vehicle and equipment showcase, and a thrilling ride-and-drive on the NASCAR racetrack. Learn more on the [Granite State Clean Cities Coalition website](#).

Curious about Contaminants in Soil?

Are you looking forward to summer activities outdoors? Know what's in the soil around your home as you garden, work, play, and relax. Bring a soil sample to the Nashua Farmers Market on **June 25** and join NH APPLETREE and partners to learn about how to reduce your risk to environmental contaminants like Lead in soil! For more information on how to participate check out the [NHDES website](#) or contact Robert.Thistle@des.nh.gov.

Consider Necessary State Approvals During Building Permitting Process

Before issuing municipal or local building permits, please note that property owners must also ensure that they have the proper septic system permits to utilize their properties as intended. It is a common problem for buyers of properties to learn – after they’ve received all the municipal approvals they need – that their property lacks applicable state approvals, and their business plan is no longer achievable. One very common example is when food service establishments are purchased, with the new owner developing a business plan based on the existing number of seats. To get a food service license, the owner must have proof of an operationally approved septic system, as applicable, for the existing or proposed use. Many times, it is at this point that the buyer realizes they can no longer go forward with their business plan. Approvals from other programs within NHDES including, but not limited to, Wetlands, Shoreland, Alteration of Terrain and Drinking Water, may also be necessary for existing uses or proposed development. It is therefore imperative that, before the issuance of any municipal or local building permits for new structures or the expansion of use of existing structures, the applicant submit verification that all applicable state permits and approvals have been obtained. For more information, visit our Wetlands or Septic Systems webpages, or call [\(603\) 271-2147](tel:6032712147) and ask to speak with someone within the applicable program.

Funds available to upgrade municipally owned boat launches

The Municipal Boat Launch Investment Program has funds available for upgrades to municipally-owned boat launches that provide public access. Up to \$100,000 is available per project. Projects require 25% municipal match. Applications are due June 1, 2023. For more information, see the [Governor’s Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery FAQ](#).

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.

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

NHDES has approximately \$800,000 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. This RFP 3 closes **September 15, 2023** at 11:59 PM. For more information, visit the [NH State Clean Diesel Program webpage](#).

Sheds to Beds

New Hampshire lakefront projects that add plumbing, change building uses, or expand footprints often require multiple permits from the state as well as your local city or town. Converting sheds to bunkhouses, for example - adding bedrooms - requires an “Individual Sewage Disposal System” application and approval before expansion. This helps prevent water pollution. For more resources or questions about waterfront development or septic systems, visit the [Land | NH Department of Environmental Services](#), email us at Irm@des.nh.gov, or call 603-271-3501 and ask for either the Inspector of the Day or the Reviewer of the Day.

Introduction to Protected Shoreland

Get a [10-minute overview](#) of jurisdictional areas, limits, setbacks, and other aspects of proposed work in protected shoreland areas of New Hampshire. To propose projects within these jurisdictional areas, see [ten minutes of top tips](#) (and learn the most commonly missing proposal components) to help reduce your risk of unnecessary delays.

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](#).

Note to Conservation Commissions and Local River Advisory Committees

In accordance with state statute, the NHDES Wetlands Bureau cannot reject Minimum Impact Expedited applications that have not been signed by the municipal conservation commission or local river advisory committee. Members of such commissions and committees should be aware that refusal to sign an expedited application will not preclude its use but will only preserve a 21-day hold by the Bureau for comment. All forms will be amended to reflect the language of the law in the coming weeks. However, the procedural change is effective immediately. To view the state statute, visit [Section 482-A:11 Administrative Provisions. \(state.nh.us\)](#).

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.

Stream Crossings and Culverts

The Granite State features at least 17,000 stream crossings. The NHDES Culvert Maintainer Certification program in partnership with UNH Extension, helps support critical infrastructure and mitigate risks of flooding. For more details on this and other initiatives, visit the [stream crossings section of our website](#).

Water Resources and the Value of Volunteers

The Lake Sunapee Protective Association's Center for Lake Studies hosted the annual [Volunteer Lake Association Program](#) workshop earlier in May. NHDES outreach program staff provided partners with updates on lake water quality monitoring, cyanobacteria tracking, shoreland protection and permitting, Soak Up the Rain resources, aquatic invasive species identification, and watershed management planning. In a state with more than 800 public lakes and ponds, water quality monitoring and watershed management are made possible in part by the valuable contributions of volunteers.

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

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