



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

June 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](#).

NH Waste Management Public Input Session – July 11

The NHDES Waste Management Division is hosting an online public input session on proposed changes to the New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules for Solid Waste Management, namely Part Env-Sw 308 Solid Waste General Permit Program, a section within Env-Sw 300 Solid Waste Program: Permits. This public input session is being held in advance of the formal rulemaking process and will include a brief discussion of the proposed rules under consideration and opportunity for public input. The session will be held online using GoToWebinar on Tuesday, **July 11, 2023**, at 1 PM and comments may be submitted in writing to NHDES at any time before **July 25, 2023**, at 4 PM For additional information on where to submit comments, see [the notice of public input session](#).

2023 Source Water Protection Grant Round

The Drinking Water & Groundwater Trust Fund (DWGTF) – Source Water Protection (SWP) Program offers competitive grants to projects that will permanently protect water supply lands. The Source Water Protection eligibility application can be found at the [DWGTF Source Water Protection Eligibility Application](#). Eligibility applications are due **July 28, 2023**. More information about the SWP program can be found on the [NH DWG Trust Fund website](#).

Leak Detection Survey Grant Application Period Open

The application period for the Leak Detection Survey Grant is open until **July 31, 2023**. All active community water systems in New Hampshire are eligible to apply for a **free** leak detection survey by a specialist during the 2024 field season. For more information and a link to the application, please visit the [Leak Detection Survey Grant's webpage](#), and please send any questions to waterconservation@des.nh.gov.

State Asbestos Requirements

A reminder that when residents are requesting permits from the town or city to conduct demolitions or renovations there are also state requirements they may have to comply with. For example, a notification must be received by NHDES at least 10 working days prior to the start of any major asbestos abatement project or any demolition activity. In addition, inspections for asbestos must be conducted and all asbestos-containing materials must be removed before a demolition. There are additional requirements for the proper disposal of the material. Don't forget to inform your residents about also complying with state requirements!

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

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

New Funding Program for Electric Fleets and New Diesel – Granite State Clean Fleets Available Now!

NHDES has \$10 million available for local governments to replace their older diesel vehicles and equipment with new diesel and electric versions. Funding can cover up to 95% of an approved project's costs, including electric vehicle infrastructure and make-ready expenses. The RFP closes **October 13, 2023**. For more information, visit [the NH Volkswagen webpage](#).

Water Works Operator Certification Exams

Drinking water operator certification examinations will be held on Tuesday, **December 5, 2023**, at NHDES, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord. Applications for the exam are due 30 days before 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 information, see our [Water Works Operator Certification webpage](#).

Used Oil Gift Grant Applications Being Accepted

NHDES is now accepting requests for applications for Used Oil Gift Grants for State Fiscal Year 2024 (**July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024**). Applications will be accepted until all funds have been encumbered. Costs eligible for reimbursement include used oil burner maintenance, used oil storage, contractor disposal costs, assistance in purchasing a new used oil furnace and more. Grant requirements give highest priority to applicant communities or groups of communities serving the greatest population, operating in remote locations, or to first-time applicants. Grant applications will be available on the NHDES [Used Oil Collection Gift Grant Program](#) webpage. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Andrew Gould at [\(603\) 271-6424](tel:603-271-6424), or by email at UsedOilGrants@des.nh.gov. The [Oil Grant Program Brochure](#) is available in a downloadable form.

Could Registering Your Dock Save You Time and Money?

Summer is here, and many waterfront property owners and visitors are enjoying (or working on) their docks. For all owners or agents considering repair or replacement of existing, non-tidal docking structures, we now offer a voluntary registration option that may help. For more details, see our [Voluntary Non-Tidal Dock Registration Fact Sheet](#), or to register using the [Non-Tidal Docking Structures Registration Form](#).

Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund Update

Pre-proposals for the **Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund** 2023 grant round have been received and are currently under review. Thank you to all candidates who sent in their pre-proposals! Examples of projects that may be funded include, but are not limited to, land preservation with a restoration component, wetland restoration and enhancement, stream restoration, and stream barrier removal. For more information on these funds and eligible project types, visit the [ARM Fund section of our website](#) or watch our [virtual office hour](#).

How Are We Doing?

If you recently consulted on, asked questions about, or proposed a project that required a shoreland, wetlands, alteration of terrain, or septic system permit, our Land Resources Management program team would like to hear about it. Please share your feedback using our [customer satisfaction survey](#).

Permit Tips for Projects in Protected Shoreland

If you are ever involved with properties or projects within protected shoreland, and you have 10 free minutes, watch this video for our [top permit tips](#). Our goal is to ensure your proposals are as complete as possible. This helps reduce the risk of unnecessary delays.

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.

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 [NHDES website](#), email us at irm@des.nh.gov, or call [\(603\) 271-3501](tel:(603)271-3501) and ask for either the Inspector of the Day or the Reviewer of the Day.

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](#).

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](#).

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

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