



## The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

December 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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### For Certified Culvert Maintainers: Quarterly Reporting Deadline

Please note the next [quarterly reporting](#) deadline of **January 15** for October 1 – December 31 work. The Culvert Maintainer Certification program is a [partnership with University of New Hampshire](#) designed specifically for municipal employees as well as state transportation staff who work in and around [stream crossings](#).

### NEW RESOURCE FOR HOUSEHOLDS – “Managing My Waste” webpage



The NHDES Solid Waste Management Bureau is excited to share the NEW “[Managing My Waste](#)” webpage. This is a site dedicated to helping the public know how to manage the wastes they create. The A-Z list and corresponding blogs include recycling and disposal information for aerosol cans, different types of batteries, fireworks/flares, fluorescent light bulbs, medicine, propane tanks, smoke detectors, tires, and more! We strongly urge towns to add the link to your websites and social media pages. We also created a QR code that can be posted at all transfer stations!

### FREE – NH 4th Grade Drinking Water Festival and Water Science Fair, 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, technology and many other water-related topics. Activities are hands-on and students interact with professionals in STEM fields. For the New Hampshire state-level **Water Science Fair**, fourth-graders will conduct research and present their findings to a panel of judges. 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 8, 2024**, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Plymouth, NH. Registration deadline: **January 31, 2024**. Space is limited. Students in third through fifth grades, home schooled and in traditional classes, may participate in the **Water Poetry Contest**. Submission deadline: TBD March 2024; more information available soon. For more information on all three events and to register, visit us at <https://nhwaterfestival.org> or contact Lara Hooper at [\(603\) 271-4071](tel:6032714071) or [lara.hooper@des.nh.gov](mailto:lara.hooper@des.nh.gov).

### Attention Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event Coordinators:

NHDES is now accepting requests for applications for household hazardous waste (HHW) grants for state Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 (**July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025**). Costs eligible for matching grant funds include contractor HHW disposal costs and an educational campaign addressing source reduction, reuse and recycling of HHW. The deadline for submitting a completed grant application is **February 1, 2024**. The grant application can be downloaded from the Grant Forms and Guidance tab on the [NHDES HHW Page](#). For more information, please contact the HHW Program at [\(603\) 271-2047](tel:6032712047), or by email at [hww@des.nh.gov](mailto:hww@des.nh.gov).

### Water Infrastructure Funding Workshop

NHDES is hosting a Water Infrastructure Funding Workshop **April 8-12, 2024**. The workshop will include sessions focusing on NHDES administered funding programs with topics including, funding program updates, asset management, PFAS and lead updates, 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 NHDES Events [webpage](#). If you have questions, please contact the NHDES Event Coordinators at [dwsrf@des.nh.gov](mailto:dwsrf@des.nh.gov).

### **Update from NHDES Instream Flow Program**

NHDES' Instream Flow Program staff recently installed their 11th streamflow station on one of the state's Designated Rivers, collecting data to support future Protected Instream Flow Studies and heightening protection under the Water Division's rules. The streamflow stations provide near real-time streamflow data for the following rivers:

- Ammonoosuc (Lisbon and Crawfords Purchase).
- North Branch Contoocook (Antrim).
- Lamprey tributaries: Little (Lee), North (Lee), North Branch (Candia), Pawtuckaway (Nottingham) and Piscassic (Newmarket).
- Middle Branch Piscataquog (New Boston) and North Branch Piscataquog (Goffstown).
- Swift (Albany).

NHDES provides links to a dashboard for each station that shows the past 30 days of water temperature, water level, and water flow, as well as current water temperature and flow. A map of all 11 of the Instream Flow Program's streamflow stations is available on the New Hampshire Geological Survey's [NH Groundwater Level Monitoring Web Application](#), which includes hyperlinks to the dashboards for each station. Click the Data Layer List button (top right corner) and select NHDES Streamflow Stations to see their locations; click on the station icon to find a hyperlink to its dashboard. The public can also scan the QR code on each station's sign for the dashboard hyperlink. For more information or to report issues, contact Joe Schmidl, Instream Flow Specialist at [Joseph.Schmidl@des.nh.gov](mailto:Joseph.Schmidl@des.nh.gov) or [\(603\) 271-3280](tel:6032713280).

### **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). Funding for the program is provided by the U.S. EPA Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act. In addition, the New Hampshire Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund has awarded \$1.6 million for remediation grants for public and private schools, and is working with the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services to establish a grant program for child care facilities. Information about the remediation grant will be available this fall and will be posted on the [Get the Lead Out webpage](#).

### **Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund Update**

The [ARM calculator](#) has been updated to include a new field for calculating intermittent stream impacts at the appropriate rate. Because the US Army Corps of Engineers assesses stream credits differently for perennial and nonperennial stream impacts, this update ensures that the total ARM Fund payment for stream impacts accurately accounts for the sale of stream credits. Additionally, the calculator now includes fields for total stream and wetland credits to facilitate verification of credit sales. Please email [des.arm@des.nh.gov](mailto:des.arm@des.nh.gov) with any questions.

### **State Asbestos Certification and Licensing Requirements**

Make sure your asbestos licenses and certifications are properly renewed. When filling out the applications for certification or licensure, fill out the form completely, sign the last page, and make sure the appropriate fee is associated. For a fully complete application, there are additional attachments that must be submitted with the application. For certifications, a current training certificate and photo are required along with additional documentation depending on the type of certification. For license applications, make sure that the company is registered with the New Hampshire Secretary of State. For further information or documentation needed for a completed application, check the [asbestos certification and licensing requirements fact sheet](#). Have further questions? Contact the asbestos licensing and certification specialist at [asbestos.licensing@des.nh.gov](mailto:asbestos.licensing@des.nh.gov).

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

If you have ever needed information from us about permitting, wetlands, protected shoreland, septic systems, or terrain alteration, we would love to hear from you. Please consider completing our 3-minute [customer satisfaction survey](#). Thank you for your feedback!

### **New Video Highlights Wetlands Permitting Resource**

This [short video](#) offers an overview of the state Natural Heritage Bureau's DataCheck tool for checking records on rare species and natural communities. It features top tips based on stakeholders' frequently asked questions. To use the tool, or for additional questions, visit the [DataCheck](#) section of the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands website.

### **WATCH: New NHDES Video Highlights Land Development Permitting Rule Changes**

This [short video](#) offers an overview of New Hampshire's latest "Alteration of Terrain" rules updates, including some that relate to agriculture, redevelopment, stormwater treatment and solar arrays. These updates also include a revised definition of "earth-moving activities" in or near protected shoreland with steeper slopes. To read the full adopted rules, visit the [administrative rules area](#) of the NHDES website

### **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](#).

### **Reminders Regarding Outdoor Wood Boilers and Residential Wood and Pellet Stoves**

When looking to purchase a wood stove or wood-fired hydronic heater (commonly known as open wood boilers (OWBs)) make sure it is certified to the May 2020 EPA emission standards. Also, a law passed in 2008 and amended in 2017 (RSA 125-R) prohibits the sale and installation of uncertified outdoor wood boilers in New Hampshire. Existing non-certified OWBs can remain in place but cannot be moved or reinstalled at another location. For more information, visit the [EPA Certified Wood Heater Database](#), and the NHDES [Home Wood-Burning Appliances](#) webpage.

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