



## The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

January 2024

*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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### Attention Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event Coordinators:

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

### Happy World Wetlands Day

**February 2** marks the anniversary of the United Nations “Convention on Wetlands” – an international treaty adopted in 1971 and celebrated worldwide since 1997. In New Hampshire, and around the world, wetlands and wetland restoration help people and our environments in multiple ways, including water quality improvement, protection against flooding and enhanced biodiversity. For more information and resources on this international event, visit the [United Nations website](#).

### School Chemical Safety Trainings

The Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission will present 12 live webinars, starting **March 7, 2024**: “Legacy Chemicals,” “What Chemicals to Keep,” “Hazardous Waste Regulations,” “Safe Storage of Science Chemicals,” “Chemical Risks,” “How and Why to Write a Chemical Hygiene Plan,” “Roles and Responsibilities of Facilities Managers,” “Student Safety in the Lab,” “Student Safety in the Art Studio,” “Student Safety in the Industrial Tech/Shop Area,” “Inspection Strategies for Fire Inspectors and Insurance Carriers,” and “Roles and Responsibilities of Administrator and Insurance Carriers.” Registration information will be available soon. For more information, contact Victoria Davis, Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission, at [\(603\) 444-1680](tel:6034441680) or [vdavis@uvlsrpc.org](mailto:vdavis@uvlsrpc.org).

### Mapper’s Workshop

This year’s Mapper’s Workshop, put on by the New Hampshire Geological Survey, will be held on **Tuesday, April 9**, starting at **8 AM** and lasting until mid-afternoon, at the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (7 Hazen Drive in Concord). The workshop features presentations and results from geologists working in New Hampshire that showcase their surficial and bedrock mapping work during the past year, and how their applied and scientific contributions further our knowledge of New Hampshire geology and its use by stakeholders. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Rebecca LeCain by emailing [geology@des.nh.gov](mailto:geology@des.nh.gov) before **Friday, March 8**.

### Solid Waste Facility Annual Report Forms are Available – Due March 31, 2024

Annual Facility Reports for active facilities and non-operating landfills are due by **March 31, 2024**, for calendar year 2023. Active Facilities must submit an [Annual Facility Report](#) and the inactive landfills must submit a [Post-Closure Report](#). These reports are a requirement per your permit. There are instructions for both the [AFR](#) and the [PCR](#) that provide detailed information on what is required to be included in each section of the form. This year, NHDES has also created short instructional videos that will be available on the [SWOT Channel](#) starting January 31. Please view those videos before contacting NHDES as it may be a simple solution that can be answered. Documents needed to fill out these reports include your facility permit, which is available on [OneStop](#); Facility Operating Plan found at the facility; and shipping and

receiving slips. The Solid Waste Management Bureau requests that you submit your completed form(s) to [solidwasteinfo@des.nh.gov](mailto:solidwasteinfo@des.nh.gov) or upload via OneStop. If you have questions, please contact the SWMB at (603) 271-2925.

### **New Hampshire Water Poetry Contest – Free**

Open to all New Hampshire students in grades 3-5, including homeschoolers. Contest theme: Imagine a Day Without Water (and no bottled water either!) Submission deadline: **March 31, 2024**. [Contest guidelines and submission information](#) are available online along with [water education videos](#) (organized by theme).

Questions? Contact Lara Hooper at [lara.hooper@des.nh.gov](mailto:lara.hooper@des.nh.gov). (To learn about our in-person Water Festival, Science Fair and Poetry Contest, visit us at <https://nhwaterfestival.org>.)

### **Water Works Operator Certification Exams**

Drinking Water Operator Certification Examinations will be held on **April 23, 2024**, location TBD.

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 the [Operator Certification webpage](#).

### **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).

### **Get the Lead Out of Drinking Water Program**

The New Hampshire Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund has \$1 million available for remediation grants for public and non-public schools. Schools can apply online: [Lead Remediation Grant](#). NHDES is working with the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services to establish a similar grant program for child care facilities. 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. Funding for the program is provided by the U.S. EPA Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act. For more information and to view testing results, visit [www.gettheleadoutnh.org](http://www.gettheleadoutnh.org).

### **Climate Acton Plan?**

New Hampshire has been awarded a Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to update the State's Climate Action Plan. The CPRG team would like to know of any municipalities who have their own Climate Action Plan or are working on drafting one. Please email the team: [cprg@des.nh.gov](mailto:cprg@des.nh.gov)

### **Reminder about Renovation and Demolition Projects and Asbestos**

Asbestos is extremely hazardous to your health and the environment. As a result, residents are reminded that there are strict rules in place pertaining to the handling and abatement of asbestos. It is not safe to assume that because a structure was built after a certain date, it is safe to renovate or demolish without first identifying whether asbestos is present. Most demolition and renovation projects require that a notification be sent to NHDES before any work is done. Any asbestos identified must be abated before any activity. In addition, any asbestos containing waste must be disposed of in accordance with the rules. For more information contact NHDES at [\(603\) 271-3503](tel:6032713503) or go to the NHDES website at <https://www.des.nh.gov/waste/asbestos>.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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!

### **Shoreland vegetation tips**

This 7-minute video offers tips to consider for managing vegetation within the protected shoreland. It includes information on the value of native plants, waterfront buffers and woodland buffers, and using pesticides and fertilizers. [Vegetation Management for Water Quality in Protected Shoreland - YouTube](#)

### **Tips for private beaches**

This 10-minute video offers a short introduction to non-tidal beach permitting in New Hampshire. It includes information on impacts, locations and sizes, construction tips, and adding sand to existing beaches. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ibMCyeYLVKI&list=PLzaaFQKgZ-Fhm2Z1rzdWyjk6ojU6mzfoJ&index=4>

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