

Source Water Protection and Source Water Sustainability Award Recipients from 2005 to 2022

Each year, NHDES recognizes a water system, municipality, organization, or person for exemplary efforts to protect drinking water resources through a Source Water Protection Award. The Source Water Sustainability Award, which was first awarded in 2010, recognizes work to preserve the sustainability of our drinking water resources.

Year	Source Water Protection	Source Water Sustainability
2022	<p>Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire</p> <p>For its role in protecting important water supply lands, typically in partnership with water suppliers. Of the land conservation projects supported by the New Hampshire Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund since 2017, SELT has been behind 8 of the 35, or nearly one in four projects, more than any other land trust, municipality, or water system. SELT’s work to protect so many of the state’s water supplies serves as an important example for both land trusts and municipal water systems in New Hampshire.</p>	<p>Emerald Lake Village District Commissioners & Aquamen Water Solutions</p> <p>For working to complete repairs of 64 leaking mains and services and implementing a zone metering program for increased leak detection, significantly lowering the system’s water use. Additionally, the Emerald Lake Village District Commissioners are actively cooperating and pursuing permanent, sustainable solutions for the community, having obtained funding through the DWSRF, ARPA, and DWGTF programs.</p>
2021	<p>Merrimack River Watershed Council</p> <p>For initiating the New Hampshire Source Water Protection Partnership. The US Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service awarded \$6.86 million to protect high-priority source water areas, restore habitat, and enhance climate resilience. Partners include NHDES, the NH Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund, Pennichuck Corporation, the Society for the Protection of NH Forests, and Southeast Land Trust of NH. The Partnership will focus on permanent protection of water supply lands, and land management practices, primarily on land protected by easements. This new partnership represents an unprecedented opportunity to protect water supply land, with substantial federal funds matched by the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund and other sources.</p>	<p>Hooksett Village Water Precinct</p> <p>For outstanding efforts to maintain the sustainability of the Precinct’s sources through asset modernization, strategic planning, water efficiency outreach, and a commitment to proactive water loss control. The Precinct completed an Asset Management Plan Update, which will be used to determine the water mains most in need of replacement, and GIS mapping of the entire distribution system, which will enhance their leak detection and repair efforts. As a result of these activities, among others, the water balance for the system has been reduced from approximately 20 million gallons in 2015 to less than 1 million gallons in 2020.</p>

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<p>2019</p>	<p>Town of Gorham</p> <p>For pioneering work to conserve land that protects Ice Gulch and Perkins Brook watersheds. As a result of this work, 3,500 acres of watershed land in Gorham and Randolph will be protected by deed restrictions that prevent development, which will permanently protect 98% of the Ice Gulch watershed and 85% of the Perkins Brook watershed. The two watersheds empty to constructed impoundments just before entering the Gorham Drinking Water Treatment Plant, which serves 90% of the town's 2,600 residents.</p>	<p>Strafford Regional Planning Commission</p> <p>For exemplary work to assist Dover and Rochester with local policy changes regarding water efficiency and drought. The Planning Commission worked with Rochester to update regulations regarding outdoor water use restrictions and worked with Dover to update policies that addressed irrigation practices and drought-tolerant plantings, among other landscaping features. Updating these regulations will help reduce new water demand, which could be critically important during future droughts.</p>
<p>2018</p>	<p>Town of Seabrook Water Department & Rockingham Planning Commission</p> <p>For the District's efforts to increase protection of the town wells by reclassifying the Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA) to GAA through the NHDES Groundwater Reclassification Program. The new GAA reclassified area extends into two adjoining communities that support the reclassification and are working with Seabrook to implement new groundwater protection activities.</p>	<p>Plymouth Village Water and Sewer District</p> <p>For outstanding efforts to maintain the sustainability of the District's sources through strategic planning and management of the water supply and system, water conservation activities, energy efficiency initiatives, and community outreach. These include installation of additional water meters, working with Plymouth State University to install low-flow devices in residential dorms, reducing water leaks, and installing solar panels and variable frequency drives on water pumps.</p>
<p>2017</p>	<p>Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests</p> <p>For outstanding efforts to advance the permanent protection of water supply lands through its leadership role in the creation of the Water Supply Land Protection Grant Program, the Merrimack Conservation Partnership, vigorous promotion of land conservation to protect drinking water sources, and spearheading projects such as the Tower Hill Pond project.</p>	<p>University of New Hampshire/ Durham Water System</p> <p>For outstanding efforts to maintain the sustainability of surface and groundwater sources through a water conservation ordinance and plan, expanded storage through artificial aquifer recharge, requirements for low-flow appliances, and promotion of water conservation through regular town mailings.</p>
<p>2016</p>	<p>Donald Ware, Vice President, Pennichuck Water Works</p> <p>For his outstanding efforts to protect source water within the Nashua region through improved watershed planning, community zoning, stormwater management, land conservation and public education.</p>	<p>City of Concord</p> <p>For outstanding efforts to maintain the sustainability of the city's primary source of drinking water, Lake Penacook, through its leak detection program, quarterly water audits, and promotion of water conservation to Concord residents.</p>

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2015	<p>David Paris, Director, Manchester Water Works</p> <p>For his exemplary and longstanding work to protect Lake Massabesic as a source of drinking water for the City of Manchester and surrounding communities.</p>	<p>City of Portsmouth</p> <p>For efforts coordinated by the City of Portsmouth that better preserve drinking water resources through the implementation of strategic and innovative water conservation and leak detection measures.</p>
2014	<p>John Cotton</p> <p>For his exemplary work in the field of hydrogeology, providing pioneering work for the protection of groundwater resources in New Hampshire.</p> <p>Douglas Heath</p> <p>For his work at the United States Environmental Protection Agency, providing exceptional service to protect New Hampshire's drinking water.</p>	<p>Town of Jaffrey</p> <p>For the Town's exemplary effort to better conserve drinking water resources in New Hampshire.</p>
2013	<p>John H. Bergeron, Canaan Source Water Protection Committee</p> <p>For his exemplary work as a community leader in Canaan, New Hampshire to plan and implement source protection measures for both Canaan Street Lake and public water supply wells.</p>	<p>Richard M. Meleski, Superintendent, Winchester Water and Wastewater Treatment Facility</p> <p>For his work as Superintendent of the Winchester Water Department, Winchester, New Hampshire, providing a pioneering example of how public water systems can better conserve groundwater resources in New Hampshire.</p>
2012	<p>David E. Sharples, City of Somersworth</p> <p>For his role in the city's recent adoption of innovative low impact development (LID) land use regulations as well as strategic land conservation efforts.</p>	<p>William S. Weber, Village District of Eastman</p> <p>For his work to implement various water efficiency enhancements to the water system and in communicating the importance of water conservation to Eastman residents.</p>
2011	<p>Eric Senecal, Lakes Region Planning Commission, and Green Mountain Conservation Group</p> <p>For their work to assist four of six towns in the Ossipee aquifer area to adopt new local ordinances that provide a more consistent level of aquifer protection.</p>	<p>Wade Crawshaw, Gunstock Acres Village District</p> <p>For his work to install an innovative system that rapidly detects and locates water leaks in the system's piping.</p>

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2010	<p>Erica Anderson and Lakes Region Planning Commission</p> <p>For their work on aquifer protection in the towns of Belmont, Northfield, and Tilton.</p>	<p>Sue Foote and Seabrook Water and Sewer Advisory Committee</p> <p>For their work in achieving water conservation by funding water meters and other water system improvements.</p>
2009	<p>Thomas Cravens, Portsmouth Water Works</p> <p>For his many years of work to protect Portsmouth's water supply wells and Bellamy Reservoir.</p>	
2008	<p>Jack Munn, Southern New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission</p> <p>For his work to improve source protection in the greater Manchester area through a regional source water protection initiative.</p>	
2007	<p>Dick Strickford, Contoocook Village Precinct</p> <p>For his work to protect, secure, and monitor Bear Pond and its watershed as the water supply source for Contoocook Village Precinct.</p>	
2006	<p>Town of Hollis</p> <p>For its exemplary zoning ordinances to protect groundwater and surface water, as well as for its extensive protection of conservation lands and its private water supply well testing program.</p>	
2005	<p>Waukegan Watershed Advisory Committee; Town of Meredith; and Jennifer O. Palmiotto, N.H. Rural Water Association</p> <p>For their work to prepare a management plan for Lake Waukegan and its watershed.</p>	