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## The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the  
NH Department of Environmental Services

### October 2015

*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 Information Meetings on new Land Resources Management Bureau

NHDES is planning to formally consolidate the Wetlands, Subsurface Systems, and Alteration of Terrain Bureaus and the Shoreland Program into one new comprehensive Land Resources Management (LRM) Bureau. NHDES will be holding 6 informational meetings to discuss how this reorganization will streamline existing permitting processes and enhance customer service. NHDES will also be answering questions and accepting public comments at these meetings. Due to the limited seating at each venue, we encourage you to reserve a seat by registering on-line

[https://www2.des.state.nh.us/Seminars/LRM\\_Register.aspx](https://www2.des.state.nh.us/Seminars/LRM_Register.aspx)

The following information meetings will be held:

City/ Town	Venue	Address	Date	Time
Concord	NHDES	29 Hazen Drive	11/2/15	2:00 – 4:00 pm
Concord	NHDES	29 Hazen Drive	11/2/15	6:00 – 8:00 pm
Portsmouth	Portsmouth City Hall	1 Junkins Avenue	11/3/15	6:00 – 8:00 pm
Laconia	Laconia City Hall	45 Beacon Street	11/5/15	6:00 – 8:00 pm
Littleton	Littleton Opera House	2 Union Street	11/9/15	6:00 – 8:00 pm
Keene	Keene Public Library	60 Winter Street	11/10/15	6:00 – 8:00 pm

### Salt Applicator Certification Training Sessions

If you are concerned about winter maintenance practices on private parking lots polluting local waterbodies with road salt this winter, consider promoting the UNH Green SnowPro training and NHDES Salt Applicator Certification Program with commercial and municipal salt applicators in your community. Training attendees are eligible to become Certified Salt Applicators by NHDES and receive liability protection from ice related slip and fall cases. The training focuses on how to apply salt in the most efficient manner. Certified participants using best management practices and keeping proper records - or property owners who hire them - are not liable for damages arising from snow or ice. Upcoming full day and refresher trainings will be held this fall. For information and registration: <http://www.t2.unh.edu/green-snowpro-training-and-certification> or call 603-271-5329.

### 2016 Local Source Water Protection Grants -Application Available Now!

Project funding is available from NHDES to develop and implement programs to protect existing sources of public drinking water. The grants are available to water suppliers, municipalities, regional

planning agencies, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, conservation districts and state agencies. Applicants can receive up to \$20,000 for projects to protect drinking water sources, including watershed planning, delineation of protection areas, assessment of threats to water supply sources, implementation and source security. **Applications are available at:** [http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/lswp\\_grants.htm](http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/lswp_grants.htm)  
Please contact Pierce Rigrod at 603 271-0688 or [pierce.rigrod@des.nh.gov](mailto:pierce.rigrod@des.nh.gov) if you have any questions or would like to discuss your proposal. **Due November 2, 2015.**

### **Forest Laws for Municipal Officials**

Forest Laws for Municipal Officials will be held in Auburn on November 9, 2015, and in Lancaster on Tuesday, November 10, 2015. A classroom session covering timber tax law, forest harvest laws, wetland laws and road classifications will be conducted in the morning with an optional field session in the afternoon. For more information or for a copy of the brochure, visit <http://extension.unh.edu/events/files/DAAFE1E7-5056-A432-4F332352DC7D93BF.pdf>

### **Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and the EPA Clean Power Plan (CPP)**

The first meeting of New Hampshire Stakeholders to discuss RGGI and the CPP will be held on Friday, November 20, 2015 at 10 AM at the NHDES Auditorium, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH. This and future meetings will provide opportunities for public comment and meaningful engagement with stakeholders, including vulnerable communities, during preparation of the to-be-drafted initial submittal regarding EPA's CPP. A webinar will be held by RGGI on Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at 10 AM. Please see: [http://rggi.org/docs/Documents/2015-11-17\\_Save\\_the\\_Date.pdf](http://rggi.org/docs/Documents/2015-11-17_Save_the_Date.pdf)

### **New Hampshire Municipal Association Conference**

Please swing by the NHDES booth at the NHMA Conference, November 19 and 20. We will have all the latest information that municipalities need to know. For more information about the conference visit <https://www.nhmunicipal.org/>

### **Asset Management Planning Grant Program**

The NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau is pleased to announce the fourth round of the Asset Management Planning Grant program. This grant is intended to assist community water systems in developing an asset management plan. The program will provide community water systems a 50% matching grant up to \$15,000 to conduct asset management initiatives. Applications will be accepted until December 4, 2015. Eligible systems include Community Water Systems serving a population of 500 or greater. An information packet and application are available on the DWGB website at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/asset-management/index.htm> under Grant/Loans. Feel free to contact Luis Adorno at 603 271-2472 or [luis.adorno@des.nh.gov](mailto:luis.adorno@des.nh.gov) if you have any questions or would like to discuss your proposal.

### **Electric Vehicle Charging Station Rebate is BACK!**

NHDES is once again offering rebates to businesses and municipalities to offset the costs of installing public access electric vehicle charging stations. Visit <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/drive-electric/index.htm> for more information on the NH Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Rebate Program and to download the application.

### **Funding available through NH's Clean Diesel Program**

NHDES is accepting proposals for partial reimbursement of diesel engine repower/replacement, vehicle replacement, fuel conversion and other diesel emissions-reducing projects. Diesel vehicles, trains, buses, marine vessels, construction equipment, trucks and non-road vehicles and generators are eligible. Restrictions apply. For more information on this program, contact Dolores Rebolledo at

[dolores.rebolledo@des.nh.gov](mailto:dolores.rebolledo@des.nh.gov)

### **NHDES to Work with Municipal Wastewater Treatment Facilities on Energy Efficiency**

NHDES has been selected for US Department of Energy grant funding to assist municipally-owned wastewater treatment facilities in becoming more energy efficient. The final negotiations for grant acceptance are underway now and grant work is anticipated to begin in January 2016. For more information, contact Sharon Rivard at [Sharon.rivard@des.nh.gov](mailto:Sharon.rivard@des.nh.gov) or 603 271-2508.

### **NPDES Electronic Reporting Rule News**

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Electronic Reporting Rule was published in the Federal Register on October 22, 2015 with an effective date on December 21, 2015 (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-10-22/html/2015-24954.htm> ). The rule requires the electronic reporting and sharing of Clean Water Act NPDES program information instead of the current paper-based reporting of this information. This action will save time and resources for permittees, states, tribes, territories and the US Government while increasing data accuracy, improving compliance and supporting EPA's goal of providing better protection of the nation's waters. By modernizing this Clean Water Act reporting program, permittees and regulators will use existing, available information technology to electronically report information and data related to the NPDES permit program. More information is available on the EPA website:

<http://www2.epa.gov/compliance/final-national-pollutant-discharge-elimination-system-npdes-electronic-reporting-rule>

### **Federal Stormwater Permit News**

In case you missed it, the Federal stormwater permit for discharges of stormwater associated with industrial activity, called the Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP), was reissued by EPA in June of 2015. Applications for renewing permit coverage were due by September 5, 2015. This permit applies to municipal operations that discharge stormwater runoff such as large wastewater treatment facilities (greater than 1.0 million gallons per day) or those with industrial pretreatment programs, and transfer stations that do recycling. For more information visit

<http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/npdes/stormwater/EPA-Multi-Sector-General-Permit-MSGP.cfm>

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