



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the
NH Department of Environmental Services

May 2020

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](#).

NHDES Response to COVID-19

The coronavirus pandemic has caused many of us to do business differently. NHDES has set up a webpage as a clearinghouse for information related to any changes in NHDES program activity. NHDES will do its best to communicate any changes directly with our program customers and stakeholders, however please check this webpage regularly, as we will update information as necessary. <https://www.des.nh.gov/covid19/index.htm>

Funds Available Through Diesel Emissions Reduction Act Program

NHDES has approximately \$300,000 of funding available through the Environmental Protection Agency's Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) program. This Request for Proposals (RFP) is for a second round of funding administered by NHDES through the State Clean Diesel Grant Program. This program provides partial funding for local/state governments and businesses operating in New Hampshire to reduce emissions through idle reduction technologies, exhaust controls, and/or replacement of older on- or off-road diesel engines/vehicles/equipment. Round 2 RFP applications will be accepted through **June 3 at 4PM**. For more information, visit the [NH DERA Project webpage](#).

Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Project Pre-applications

NHDES is now accepting **pre-applications for the 2020 Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)** through **Monday, June 15, 2020, Deadline**. CWSRF funding is available for: wastewater, stormwater, nonpoint source, watershed protection and restoration, and estuary management projects that contribute to the protection of public health and water quality. [CWSRF Pre-application](#). Send CWSRF pre-applications electronically to Kathie Bourret: Kathleen.Bourret@des.nh.gov

Wastewater State Aid Grant (SAG) Project Pre-applications

NHDES is now accepting **pre-applications for the Wastewater State Aid Grant (SAG) Program** through **Monday, June 15, 2020, Deadline**. Please submit pre-applications for projects that will be completed by June 30, 2023. [SAG Pre-application](#). Send SAG pre-applications electronically to Beth Malcolm: Beth.Malcolm@des.nh.gov.

Pre-applications for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Projects

NHDES is soliciting pre-applications for drinking water improvement projects through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program. The SRF program is a low-interest loan program that assists community public water systems with the planning, design and construction of eligible drinking water infrastructure improvement projects. Information on the DWSRF Pre-Application is available on the [DWSRF webpage](#).

All Pre-Applications are due by Monday, June 15, 2020. For more information on DWSRF, contact Johnna McKenna at 271-7017 or johnna.mckenna@des.nh.gov.

Grants Available to Protect Water Supply Land

The New Hampshire Drinking Water and Groundwater Advisory Commission is targeting up to \$2 million from the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund (DWGTF) for grants to protect public water supply sources in 2020. The grant application process, administered by the Commission through NHDES, begins with **brief eligibility applications due on June 26**. Projects eligible for funding under the program involve permanent protection of land from which water flows to public water supply sources – specifically wellhead protection areas and land designated as "hydrologic areas of

concern" within water supply watersheds. Projects that involve the protection of land for future water supply sources will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. After NHDES reviews the eligibility applications, applicants will be asked to submit a more extensive funding application by September 10. The Trust Fund can cover up to 50% of eligible costs, up to \$500,000 per project. More information is available on the [DWGTF website](#).

2020 Funding for Drinking Water Infrastructure Projects

The New Hampshire Drinking Water and Groundwater Advisory Commission (Commission) has allocated up to \$30.9 million from the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund for loans and grants for the Special Projects Assistance Program, which targets drinking water infrastructure projects addressing contamination, time critical needs, economic hardship or associated with an extension of a public water system, and the Annual Drinking Water Construction Project Assistance Program (Annual Round). Special Project Assistance Program funding and special project applications can be submitted at any time and are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The Annual Round funding applications are due on September 10. Eligible applicants and projects are defined in the [Rules for Construction Projects](#) and include engineering and/or construction for drinking water related infrastructure projects including but not limited to contamination, growth and drinking water improvements. Funding decisions for the Annual Round are anticipated to be completed by late fall. More information is available at [Link to Construction Project Information](#).

Wetlands Permitting Public Information Notice

Due to COVID-19 the citizens of New Hampshire, state agencies, and cities and towns are taking additional safety measures to protect our employees and customers. Because of the extra precautions to meet the CDC guidelines and the governor's order, towns and cities have closed their offices to the general public.

Many of our wetland application processes start with a Town clerk signature (RSA 482-A:3, I(1)). In particular, the streamlined Wetland Permit by Notice and Expedited permit application processes require conservation commission waiver of signatures to meet RSA 482-A: 11, III(a). Accordingly, NHDES will accept emails from town and city clerks, conservation commissions, Local River Management Advisory Committee (LAC), and Rivers Council to serve as records of receipt and/or waiver of intervention for wetland applications in lieu of wet signatures during this declared novel coronavirus emergency. To ensure these town/city electronic authorizations connect to the right NHDES application, please include the applicant name, land owner name, location address, project description to "DES.WetlandsTownConn@des.nh.gov with subject line: Town Connect. Please continue to send your application and plans directly to NHDES at 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03302.

What's Flushable?

Protect your sewer and septic systems in your town! Help NHDES educate your citizens in your community by sharing the NHDES What's Flushable? Brochure in electronic form on your web sites and social media sites. Let them know that only human waste and toilet paper are flushable. You can link to or download the [brochure](#) here:

<https://getpumpednh.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/whats-flushable.pdf>

Open Request for Proposals for Installation and Operation of Level 2 Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment

NHDES, on behalf of the Office of Strategic Initiatives (OSI) and the New Hampshire Department of Administrative Services, has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the installation and operation of Level 2 charging infrastructure at a state-owned lot in downtown Concord. NHDES is seeking proposals from qualified vendors to furnish, install, maintain and operate electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) for a period of five years, with an optional two-year extension. [The RFP is available on the OSI website](#). Proposals are due June 8. Please see the RFP for details and for instructions related to the submission of questions and proposals.

Notice to Solid Waste Facility Permittees - 2019 Annual Facility Reports

NHDES records show that 65 solid waste facility permittees have yet to submit a 2019 Annual Facility Report for their active solid waste facility. Are you one of them? The deadline to submit is June 29, 2020. [The form is available online](#). If you have questions, please contact the Solid Waste Management Bureau at (603) 271-2925 or solidwasteinfo@des.nh.gov.

USDA Announces Funding Opportunity for Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction Projects

The USDA recently announced availability of \$900,000 to support local governments in implementing community compost and food waste reduction projects. Applications will be due by June 26, 2020. More information is available on the [USDA website](#).

Emergency Generators - NHDES Approvals and Installation Requirements

Any facility installing an emergency electrical generator with an aboveground petroleum storage tank (AST) having a capacity of more than 660 gallons must submit an AST application and plans to the Waste Management Division of NHDES for construction approval a minimum of 45 days prior to installation. This is true whether the AST forms an integral part of the generator enclosure or is free standing. It is unlawful to install and to operate such an emergency generator or AST without prior NHDES approval. For more information on the AST application, plan and approval process, please contact Chad Hayes at (603) 271-0686, visit the Aboveground Storage Tank program on the NHDES website and note "sample plans."

Community Power New Hampshire

A growing coalition of city, town and county leaders are collaborating to create a pathway to community power implementation that is accessible to all New Hampshire communities through the establishment of Community Power New Hampshire, or CPNH. CPNH is being designed as a new joint action public power entity — governed by communities to serve communities under a voluntary and flexible membership structure — to clear the way for cities, towns, and counties across New Hampshire to launch Community Power programs in 2020 and 2021. A recent webinar, linked below, hosted by Clean Energy NH, reviewed the legal framework for community power and outline how municipalities and counties can aggregate electric customers to implement community power programs in local regions. [Watch the webinar](#) to learn more about: Community Power Programs; The local authorization process for implementing a Community Power Program; The process for establishing CPNH, a joint action public power entity to enable program implementation; and Interaction with Public Utilities Commission and distribution utilities. Contact: Henry Herndon, Director, Local Energy Solutions, Clean Energy NH, henry@cleanenergynh.org.

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

To receive press releases and other publications of the NH Department of Environmental Services via email, please sign up [on our newsletter subscription page](#).