

News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services



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New Sustainable Land Use Planning Handbook Available *Innovative Development Guidance for Cities and Towns*

Concord, NH – The Department of Environmental Services unveiled a new guide, *Innovative Land Use Planning Techniques: A Handbook for Sustainable Development*, at the Fall Planning Conference on Saturday, October 25 at Loon Mountain.

DES and its partners in the effort, the NH Association of Regional Planning Commissions, the NH Office of Energy and Planning, and the NH Local Government Center, spent two years researching 23 topics included in the guide. Towns and cities have been authorized by law to use innovative land use controls since the 1980s, but until now, little guidance was available for their use.

“As we work together with our local, regional, and state partners in dealing with growth, the Innovative Land Use Handbook will provide a detailed reference for local planning boards,” noted Commissioner Thomas S. Burack. “The handbook shows that there are many ways to manage growth for the results communities want, which include a vital economy and a healthy environment.”

The Innovative Land Use handbook includes sections dealing with development density, environmental characteristics, and site level design. Each of the 23 chapters includes model ordinances and regulations for use by municipalities interested in implementing the innovative land use techniques.

Limited copies of the printed manual are available from DES. The entire handbook is available for free download on the DES website at www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/repp. For more information contact Eric Williams at (603) 271-2358 or eric.williams@des.nh.gov.

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