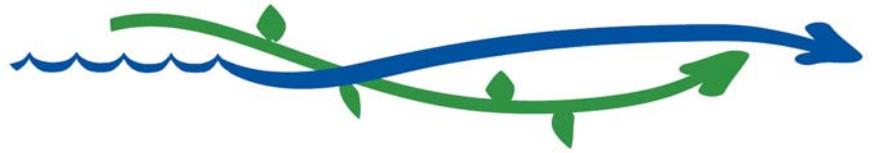




Environmental Dashboard



Trends in New Hampshire's Environment What does the data tell us?

DES is often asked: "What's the state of New Hampshire's environment? Is it good? Is it bad? Getting better or worse?" As with many things, there are no simple answers.

However, as a way to answer these questions, the following table provides a snapshot of trends for some key environmental issues important to the quality of life in New Hampshire. The "indicators" chosen have specific scientific data tracked over a period of time, which helps to show a trend in that topic area.

Click on an indicator, current condition or trend button to learn why it's important to New Hampshire's environment. The **green** circle buttons indicate a positive condition or trend, the **yellow** triangle buttons a cautionary condition or trend, and the **red** square buttons a negative condition or trend.

Topic	Indicator	Current Condition	Trend
Air Pollution	Ozone	Currently, 100% of the state is meeting the 2008 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard.	●
	Particulates	Currently, 100% of the state is meeting the 2006 fine particulate National Ambient Air Quality Standard.	●
Coastal Waters	Shellfish Harvesting	The percentage of acre-days available for harvesting shellfish is representative of the impact of pollution in the coastal areas of New Hampshire.	▲
	Eelgrass	Data indicate a long-term decline in eelgrass since 1996 that is not related to wasting disease. Due to variability even recent gains of new eelgrass still indicate an overall declining trend.	■
	Nitrogen Concentration	Between 1974 and 2011 data indicates a significant overall increasing trend for dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) at Adams Point, which is of concern. When examining variability at other monitoring stations with shorter periods of data, no consistent patterns can be found. Recent data considered in the context of long-term data show no pattern or trend.	■
Contaminated Property	Sites Cleaned Up	As of 2012, 78% of the nearly 8,000 contaminated sites discovered since the 1980s have been cleaned up.	●

Drinking Water	Groundwater Protection	As of 2012, 90 municipalities, or less than 40% of the state's municipalities, have adopted zoning ordinances to protect groundwater or aquifers from contamination.	
	Public Water Systems	85% percent of public community water systems currently meet all regulated health-based standards.	
	Private Wells	It is estimated that 20% of private drinking water wells exceed the federal safe level for arsenic; 55% exceed DES's recommended levels for radon.	
Lakes/Ponds & Rivers/Streams	Aquatic Life	Approximately 73% of rivers present ideal conditions for aquatic life.	
		Approximately 4% of lakes present ideal conditions for aquatic life.	
	Beach Advisories	DES issued 68 beach advisories in 2012; fewer advisories than in the three previous summers. On any day at any beach, the chance of an advisory being in effect is never more than 2.3%	
	Lake Water Clarity, Algal Growth & Nutrients	The clarity of our lake water has significantly deteriorated since 1985, on average by 1% per year. Lake nutrients levels have increased and algal growth has remained relatively unchanged.	
	Exotic Plant Infestations	There are currently 89 known exotic aquatic plant infestations in 69 lakes/ponds and 11 rivers statewide.	
Waste Management	Generation, Recycling & Disposal	Currently, 35% of NH solid waste is recycled or composted; 33% of it is sent to landfills; and 27% is incinerated for energy recovery; and 5% is transported out-of-state.	
Water Availability	Stream Flows	During the 12 months of July 2011 to June 2012, stream flow conditions statewide exhibited extreme values, illustrating both the difficulty in forecasting rain events and the necessity of monitoring flows.	
Wetlands	Wetlands Loss & Mitigation	Over the past five years, current wetlands loss has averaged 72 acres per year; however, more than 25,000 acres have been protected through wetland mitigation and conservation since 1997.	