



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the
NH Department of Environmental Services

September 2008

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 (DES). We respectfully request that the following is read into the minutes of your municipal committees, councils and boards. Please feel free to post it on your municipal website as well.

DES Now Accepting Grant Proposals for the Following –

- **Brownfields Grants.** DES was awarded a \$200,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency for assessment of petroleum contaminated brownfields sites. DES is soliciting site nominations from municipalities for properties needing this type of assistance. Please contact Gary Lynn at (603) 271-8873 or gary.lynn@des.nh.gov for details.
- **Exotic Aquatic Plants Prevention & Research Grants.** Municipalities and other publicly-supported nonprofit groups may apply to DES now for grants to be used to prevent the spread of non-native aquatic plants, such as exotic milfoil. Applications are also being accepted for research grant proposals to prevent the spread of these plants. Application packets are available at www.des.nh.gov under the Exotic Species Program. Contact the program coordinator at (603) 271-2248 or amy.smagula@des.nh.gov to discuss project proposals.
- **Water Supply Land Conservation Grants.** The Water Supply Land Conservation Grant Program allows DES to make 25 percent matching grants to municipal water suppliers for the purchase of land or conservation easements critical to their water quality. These water supply lands must be currently unprotected and within the wellhead protection area for a groundwater source or within the source water protection area and within five miles of the intake of a surface water source. Funding is currently uncertain, but DES is soliciting eligibility applications for projects. More information can be found at the Water Supply Land Conservation Grants website at www.des.nh.gov or by contacting Holly Green at (603) 271-3114 or holly.green@des.nh.gov.

Regulating Outdoor Wood-Fired Boilers – New State Law Became Effective in August

With the passage of HB 1405, New Hampshire established requirements for the sale, installation, and use of outdoor wood-fired boilers in the state. In passing this law, New Hampshire joins other New England states in recognizing the potential adverse health effects associated with high levels of particle pollution emitted from some of these devices. DES, the Department of Health and Human Services, and local health officers are working together to effectively implement the new law to protect the environment and public health. Information is available on the DES website at www.des.nh.gov or by calling (603) 271-1370.

DES Joins EPA Community Energy Challenge

DES has teamed with the Environmental Protection Agency in its challenge to all New England communities to save money and reduce air pollution by assessing their energy use, taking action to improve energy efficiency, and seeking out renewable energy choices. DES encourages New Hampshire cities and towns to cut energy waste in municipal buildings, schools and facilities. EPA provides free training and technical assistance to every community that joins the Challenge. Information is available at www.epa.gov/ne/eco/energy/energy-challenge.html.

New Look, Feel and URLs with DES Website Redesign

The DES Website has a new look. And with the redesign, familiar web addresses have changed as well. Please start all searches of the DES Website with www.des.nh.gov, until frequently-used web pages can be identified.

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 e-mail, please sign up at www.des.nh.gov/media/enews/index.htm.