



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the
NH Department of Environmental Services

April 2009

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.

ARM Program Accepting Grant Applications for Merrimack River Watershed

Up to \$650,000 is available through the DES Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund for eligible projects within the Merrimack River Watershed. Grants can be used for aquatic resource restoration projects or to permanently protect wetlands with high conservation value. The proposal ranking criteria will favor those projects that restore and permanently protect the functions and values of aquatic resources that were lost within the Merrimack River Watershed during the grant cycle. The primary functions lost include wildlife habitat, groundwater discharge and recharge, flood storage, and sediment/toxicant retention. The application deadline is June 5, 2009. For information, please go to www.des.nh.gov and search "ARM Program" in the A to Z List, or contact Lori Sommer at (603) 271-4059 or lori.sommer@des.nh.gov.

DES Prepares for Innovative Permitting Initiative

DES has embarked on a new agency initiative to improve its technical assistance and permitting programs to achieve superior environmental results, streamline permitting procedures, and improve coordination with other agencies and municipalities. The new initiative is funded through a cooperative agreement with the USEPA. DES plans to work closely with developers, contractors, engineers, municipalities, environmental organizations, and others involved in land development activities during this project. Throughout the course of the project there will be numerous opportunities for informal and formal input. Additional information on the project is available at www.des.nh.gov and search for "Innovative Permitting Initiative," or contact Carolyn Russell at (603) 271-3010; carolyn.russell@des.nh.gov.

Surface Water Treatment Workshop, April 29

This half-day workshop – to be held April 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at DES, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord – will address recent regulations that tighten drinking water quality standards for water systems drawing from surface sources. Means by which a range of New Hampshire communities have dealt with this challenge will be discussed. In addition to municipal engineers and regulators, speakers include Dr. Robin Collins, from UNH, who has conducted extensive research into cost-effective treatment techniques for many years. For further information, call Allyson Gourley at (603) 271-0867 or allyson.gourley@des.nh.gov.

Annual DES Drinking Water Source Protection Workshop, May 1

This annual, one-day conference will be held Friday, May 1 at the Grappone Center, Concord, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Topics focus on protecting the state's many sources of drinking water, and will range from the use of the Merrimack River as a public water supply to a Dartmouth study on the environmental and health impacts of cyanobacteria, as well as how towns find and use funds for land conservation, and more. For information and to register, go to www.agwt.org/workshops.htm.

Call for Pollution Prevention Award Applications

The NH Pollution Prevention Program announces the availability of applications for the annual Pollution Prevention Governor's Award. Winners of the Governor's Award, including municipalities, have incorporated waste reduction strategies and sustainability practices into their everyday operations – resulting in better environmental protection and appreciable financial savings. For more information, please go to www.des.nh.gov and search for "Governor's Award." The application deadline is June 5.

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