



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the
NH Department of Environmental Services

August 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.

Watershed Restoration Grants Deadline Sept. 4

DES Watershed Assistance Section is requesting pre-proposals for 2010 Watershed Restoration Grants for Impaired Waters and 2010 Watershed Assistance Grants for High Quality Waters. The pre-proposals will be used to select projects for further discussion and possible funding. We are accepting projects for restoration of impaired waters and maintenance of high quality waters only. Pre-proposal submission deadline is September 4, 2009. For information or applications go to <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/was/categories/grants.htm#warg> or contact Jeff Marcoux at (603) 271-8862, jeffrey.marcoux@des.nh.gov

2010 Local Source Water Grant Applications Now Available

Applications for the next round of Local Source Water Protection grants are now available on the DES website at http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/lswp_grants.htm. The deadline for applying is November 2, 2009. The grants are available to public water suppliers, municipalities, regional planning agencies, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, conservation districts and state agencies. Postcards announcing the availability were mailed out in June. Applicants can receive up to \$20,000 to develop and implement programs to protect public drinking water sources including watershed planning, delineation of protection areas, assessment of threats to water supply sources, implementation, and source security. For questions regarding the grant program, please contact Johnna McKenna at (603) 271-7017 or johnna.mckenna@des.nh.gov.

Aquatic Resource Mitigation Funds Distributed

The DES Wetlands Bureau has announced the Merrimack River Watershed Site Selection Committee's recommendations for four projects to receive a total of \$631,000 in grants through the DES Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund. The selected projects were the Stewart Property in Frankestown, the Clay Pond Headwaters Protection Plan (Hooksett), the Concord Regional Solid Waste/Resource Recovery Center site in Canterbury, and the Nesenkeag Brook Headwaters Project in Londonderry. The projects will provide wetland restoration, stream improvements and land preservation totaling 1,080 acres of habitat with high conservation value. The projects are subject to approval by the Governor and Council. For more information, please see "ARM" on the A to Z List at www.des.nh.gov.

Newly Signed Bills Help Municipalities and the Environment

HB 189, [Chapter 275](#), enables municipalities to establish energy commissions for the study, planning, and utilization of energy resources for municipal buildings and built resources of such city or town. The effective date for Chapter 275 is September 27, 2009. **HB 290**, [Chapter 181](#), establishes procedures enabling a municipality to adopt a fluvial erosion hazard ordinance. It also requires municipalities to submit to DES a map of all proposed fluvial erosion hazard zones and receive DES's comments prior to adopting any ordinances. DES's comments, if any, shall be advisory only. This bill went into effect July 13, 2009. **HB 585-FN**, [Chapter 212](#), establishes requirements for state and municipal purchases of outdoor lighting systems. It also establishes the "New Hampshire dark skies" policy to encourage outdoor lighting efficiency at the municipal level. This bill takes effect September 13, 2009. For more information about these and other bills recently signed by the governor, please go to the Legislature's home page at www.gencourt.state.nh.us/ie/.

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.