



## The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the  
NH Department of Environmental Services

July 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.

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### Local Source Water Protection Grants

Funds for Local Source Water Protection Grants are now available from DES to develop and implement programs to protect existing sources of public drinking water. DES has made grants to water suppliers, municipalities and other local organizations since 1997. Please note that the evaluation criteria used to score applications have been revised this year to more effectively encourage projects that support the Drinking Water Source Protection Program's goals. These goals include (1) increasing the number of public water supply sources with some form of protection, and (2) increasing the level of protection for sources that are already protected. The scoring criteria have been revised to favor projects that involve implementation or demonstrate a high likelihood of implementation. For information, please go to [www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov) and search the A to Z List for "Drinking Water Source Protection Program."

### New Wetlands Guidance Document for Municipalities

DES has created a new guidance document for municipal clerks. Under RSA 482-A, municipal clerks have responsibilities in the processing of certain wetland applications. The document, "NHDES Wetlands Application Processing Guidance for Municipal Clerks," provides information about the appropriate procedures and timeframes for handling wetland applications. Conservation commissions should find the guidance useful, as well. Please see [www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov) and see "Wetlands Application Processing Guidance (PDF)" under Hot Topics on the Wetlands' web page.

### New Vernal Pool Web Page

The DES Wetlands Bureau has a new web page to help identify vernal pools, which is particularly useful in wetland permit applications and natural resource inventories. The new site is not only useful, but fun, too; just try the "frog call quiz"! To view the new page go to [http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/vernal\\_pools.htm](http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/vernal_pools.htm).

### Shoreland Program Has Revised Permit Application Forms

The DES Shoreland Program has revised all shoreland permit application forms and the new revision date, located within the footer of all documents, is April 10, 2009. If you provide information to the public, please take a moment to make certain the *Shoreland Permit Application*, *Shoreland Permit Application Worksheet*, and *Shoreland Permit Application Checklist* have the most recent revision date. All shoreland permit application forms, as well as two helpful documents, "Vegetation Maintenance Within the Protected Shoreland" and "Frequently Asked Questions About the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act (CSPA)," are available on the Shoreland Program web page. Please see [www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov) and click on "Shoreland" in the A to Z List.

### Subsurface System Application Fees Increase

Effective July 1, 2009, the fee for submission of Subsurface System Bureau applications (Construction and Subdivision (Lots/Units)) has increased to **\$300**. This fee will be placed into a dedicated fund to fully fund the DES on-site wastewater program. Also, please remember that as of January 1, 2009, all permitted designers and installers complete a minimum of three hours annually of continuing education credit hours approved by DES. The credit hour requirement applies to all renewals for January 1, 2011 and subsequent two-year license renewals. Please go to [www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/ssb/continuing\\_education.htm](http://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/ssb/continuing_education.htm) to view an updated list of scheduled seminars.

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