



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the
NH Department of Environmental Services

May 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.

Emergency Action Plans For Dams To Be Revised And Tested

The DES Dam Bureau is currently revising emergency action plans, or EAPs, for applicable state-owned dams. Many police and fire departments, emergency management directors, regional dispatch centers, public works departments, and other officials will be receiving revised EAPs over the next few months for dams that could have an impact on their towns. Following distribution of revised EAPs, the Dam Bureau will initiate testing of the plans, including submittal of notification checklists by agencies/individuals responsible for notification of others. The Dam Bureau is available to help identify what dams impact your towns/cities, and explain the various hazard classifications and what we look for in dam safety. For information, please contact Nancy McGrath at damsafety@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-3406.

Brownfields Assessment Grant Funds Available for Coos, Grafton and Carroll Counties

The DES Brownfields Program was just awarded a \$1 million Brownfields Coalition Assessment Grant. This grant is funded via standard EPA funding sources and is not an ARRA-related award. The grant will be used to assess and characterize brownfields sites throughout Coos, Grafton and Carroll counties. Grant funds will also be used to prepare cleanup planning documents for fully assessed brownfields sites in these three counties. A limited amount of this funding will also be used to prepare an inventory of brownfields sites throughout New Hampshire. For information, please contact Keith DuBois, Brownfields Program coordinator, (603) 271-2987 or keith.dubois@des.nh.gov.

A New Recovery Page Added to DES Website

DES has just added a new page to its American Recovery and Reinvestment Act resources website that provides standard "ARRA Front-End" documents for use on ARRA-funded Clean Water (wastewater/stormwater) projects. The front-end documents include four major sections and accompanying forms. Please go to www.des.nh.gov and click on the NH Recovery icon or on the first link under "What's New."

"Local Energy Solutions 2009," June 20

A one-day conference for local energy committees, municipalities and schools, June 20 at the Grappone Center in Concord. The Local Energy Committee Working Group of the Carbon Coalition is hosting a multi-track conference to help New Hampshire communities reduce energy use, curb greenhouse gas emissions and save taxpayer dollars. The day-long conference will include examples of projects and provide participants with tools for action aimed at empowering local energy committees. For information and to register, go to www.carboncoalition.org/Conference/index.php.

Follow DES on Twitter.com

It's quick. It's easy. Get up-to-the-minute news briefs from Environmental Services on www.twitter.com/nhdes. Social networking is not everyone's cup of tea, but for receiving short news briefs, Twitter works very well. The DES Beach Inspection Program is using Twitter to alert beach-goers of bacterial outbreaks at state and local beaches this summer at www.twitter.com/nhdes_beaches. And the Rivers program is using Twitter to communicate with its volunteers at www.twitter.com/nh_rivers. Other DES programs may be launching Twitter pages shortly.

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.