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July 2025 Enews

1 message

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Conservation Commission Activities, Legislative Updates and more!



July is Plastics Free Month

Plastic Free July™ is a global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution – so we can have cleaner streets, oceans, and beautiful communities. Learn more about what you can do to reduce plastics on their website: [Plastic Free July](https://plasticfreejuly.org/).

The US Environmental Protection Agency reports that plastic pollution has become ubiquitous in natural and built environments, raising concerns about potential harm to humans and nature alike. Plastic pollution is persistent and may take between 100 to 1,000 years or more to decompose, depending on environmental conditions.

Once in the environment, plastic pollution can fragment into smaller pieces of plastic. Microplastics are plastic particles ranging in size from five millimeters to one nanometer; nanoplastics are plastic particles smaller than one micrometer. Both are found in every ecosystem on the planet from the Antarctic tundra to tropical coral reefs.



Fall Lunch & Learn Series to Focus on Waste Reduction

If you would like to learn more about how to reduce, reuse and recycle, NHACC is planning to host a webinar series this fall about options to reduce waste in NH. This four part series will start off with an overview of recycling in New Hampshire.

Recycling 101: The What, Where, Why and How Behind Recycling in NH

September 23 at 12 noon on zoom

Join Reagan Bissonnette, Executive Director of NH Recycles, to learn more about solid waste and recycling across the country and recycling in New Hampshire. What happens to materials when they are recycled? What challenges and possible solutions does New Hampshire face when it comes to solid waste and recycling? Bring your questions and learn what steps New Hampshire residents can take to make a difference.

[REGISTER HERE FOR RECYCLING 101](#)

Upcoming Programs in the Waste Reduction Webinar Series

- **FOAM RECYCLING**; Wednesday, October 8,
with Meghan Theriault, P.E., Gilford Public Works Director.
- **APPAREL IMPACT**; Wednesday, Oct. 22,
with Mia Kittredge, Content & Operations Assistant.
- **NH PLASTICS WORKING GROUP**; Wednesday, November 5,
with Cindy Heath, NH Network.

Annual Meeting & Conference

Save the Date: Saturday, November 1, 2025

Don't miss NHACC's 54h Annual Meeting and Conference. Our focus this year is on native species with a keynote presentation Ethan Tapper, author of [*How to Love a Forest*](#). We will be offering 24 breakout sessions and field trips after the annual meeting highlighting wildlife habitat, land management, our foundations classes and much more. The full workshop schedule will be up on the new NHACC website in August. We look forward to seeing everyone in November.

Training & Education Opportunities

Check Out Calendars to Learn About Education Opportunities

If you would like to learn more about the natural environment this summer, take advantage of the many opportunities hosted by non-profit organizations serving New Hampshire. It is a great time to get outside and enjoy our beautiful lands.

- [The Appalachian Mountain Club](#)
- [NH Audubon](#)
- [NH Environmental Educators](#)
- [NH Timber Owners Association](#)
- [Society for the Protection of NH Forest](#)
- [Nature Groupie](#)
- [UNH Extension](#)

CCs in the News

Newbury Conservation Commission Expressed Concerns Over Septic

Environmental groups including the Newbury Conservation Commission and Lake Sunapee Protective Association, with support from several town select boards, have been organizing for year around concerns with the ski resort's 50-year old

septic system and lagoons. They have urged the state to compel Vail to replace the system by the end of next year. [Read full article here.](#)

Rindge Conservation Commission Hike Marks National Rock Day

The Rindge Conservation Commission hosted a guided hike last weekend at the Mattabesek Wildlife Corridor to mark National Rock Day. Participants explored easy to moderate trails while learning about the rocks and boulders that define the area's terrain. Conservation Commissioner Fred Rogers, professor of geology and environmental science at Franklin Pierce University, led the hike and explained the geological history of Rindge, including the role of glaciers and erosion in shaping the landscape. [Read full article here.](#)

Manchester Conservation Commission Hosts Tour of Cedar Swamp

The Manchester Conservation Commission led a guided of the Manchester Cedar Swamp Preserve in July. The tour lead a group along the accessible All Persons Trail through diverse ecosystems, and the giant rhododendrons in bloom. [Read full article here.](#)

Grant Opportunities

Moose Plate Grant Applications Are Due in September

The New Hampshire State Conservation Committee (SCC) announces the opening of the fiscal year 2026 Conservation Moose Plate Grants. Grant application information and program requirements are available on the [SCC website](#). Grant funds are available for projects that support and promote programs and partnerships that protect, restore, and enhance the state's valuable natural resources. Grant applications are due on September 12, 2025. Awards will be announced in December 2025, and funding will be available to successful applicants in July 2026. Eligible applicants include municipalities, County Conservation Districts, qualified nonprofit organizations engaged in conservation programs, public and private schools, County Cooperative Extension natural resource programs, and scout groups. For SCC grant program inquiries, contact the State Conservation Committee Grant Administrator nh-conservation-committee@agr.nh.gov

The Merrimack Conservation Partnership Grants Now Available

The Merrimack Conservation Partnership is a regional conservation alliance formed to protect the southern portion of the greater Merrimack River watershed in New Hampshire and Massachusetts through accelerated land and water protection, advocacy, restoration, outreach, and education. The Merrimack Conservation Partnership has two 2026 grant programs:

- Land Conservation Grant Program, which funds transaction-related expenses on land conservation projects in the lower Merrimack Valley watershed of southern New Hampshire and northern Massachusetts. The program underwrites transaction costs—appraisals, surveys, title research, staff time, etc.—on conservation transactions that protect land identified as a priority in the Merrimack Valley Regional Conservation Plan. The MCP has \$117,434 to re-grant in 2024 for this grant program.
- Environmental Science, Education and Outreach Grant Program, which provides funding for environmental science, education and outreach activities related directly to the Merrimack River or its watershed. Funds can be used for activities such as youth or public environmental

educational activities, development of outreach and educational materials, river clean ups, water quality testing and monitoring activities, and other related activities. The MCP has \$25,000 to re-grant in 2025 for this grant program.

The grant programs are privately funded and administered by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests on behalf of the Merrimack Conservation Partnership. Land trusts, municipalities, and state agencies are eligible to apply for a grant. [For more information.](#)

2025 Local Source Water Protection Grant Applications Now Available!

Since 1997, NHDES has made small grants to water suppliers, municipalities and other local organizations for the purpose of protecting drinking water sources. Protection projects funded through this program have included delineation of wellhead protection areas, inventorying potential contamination sources, development of local protection ordinances, groundwater reclassification, shoreline surveys, drinking water education and outreach activities and controlling access to sources.

For more information regarding Local Source Water Protection Grants, please contact Melissa Lang at **(603) 271-2950** or Pierce Rigrod at **(603) 271-0688**. The application for the 2026 round of grants is due November 1, 2025. Click on this link to [download a grant application](#).

Northern Border Regional Commission Grants Available

This grant program is Federal-State partnership for economic and community development within the most distressed counties of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York. Two opportunities are available;

- Non-infrastructure – Feasibility Studies, Workforce Development, Business Development, Basic Healthcare, Resource Conservation/Tourism/ Recreation
- Infrastructure – Transportation, Basic Public Infrastructure, Telecommunications

State & local governments, other authorities of the state are eligible to apply. NBRC accepts pre-applications twice a year in a Spring and Fall round. After pre-application review, eligible projects are invited to submit a full application. NBRC offers grant writing and technical assistance for applicants. For more information, please visit www.nbrc.gov or contact Ian Carmichael, State Program Manager ian.m.carmichael@livefree.nh.gov. [For more info see website.](#)

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