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NHACC April 2023 Enews

1 message

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Conservation Commission Activities, Legislative Updates and more!




WHAT IS POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY SOLAR?


Growing pollinator-friendly plants under solar panels can produce clean energy while providing habitat and food for birds, bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects.



1
Ground-mounted solar panels are installed.




2
Pollinator-friendly plants are seeded beneath and around the panels. On average, these plants take 2-3 years to be established.



3
The pollinator-friendly solar site attracts pollinators, like bees and butterflies.

Pollinator-friendly plants can even improve water quality and help reduce erosion.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | Office of ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RENEWABLE ENERGY

Panels and Pollinators: Powering Tomorrow, Together

By Amy Manzelli, Esq. and Timothy Kopczynski, Esq. with BCM Environmental & Land Law
Bees have become an unofficial mascot for the environment. With “Save the Bees” coming into widespread use, people are looking beyond the stinger to appreciate the important work the tiny yellow insects do for agriculture and the environment. Likewise, solar panels dot more of the landscape and rooftops. At first blush, solar panels and bees appear to have little in common. Pollinator-friendly solar,

however, creates a symbiotic relationship between ground-mounted solar panels and pollinators and can help to further multiple environmental aims at once. Many states have already passed legislation encouraging pollinator-friendly solar, and several others have supported the trend by other means. Given its rich environmental and agricultural resources, New Hampshire is a perfect candidate to join the pollinator-friendly solar movement. [Read more.](#)

CCs in the News

East Kingston voters approved a \$4 million conservation bond

Despite a nor'easter which kept many people at home on March 14, 65% of East Kingston voters approved a \$4 million bond to protect open space via conservation easements. East Kingston's goal is to permanently set aside another 600 acres, to conserve a total of 25% of land in town.

[READ MORE](#)

Newton Conservation Commission Celebrates Earth Day

Event Earth Day is on Sat., April 22 and the Newton Conservation Commission's theme is Invest in Your Planet. To that end, they are encouraging Newton residents to pick up free trash bags and use them to gather trash along roadsides and in parks in the town.

[READ MORE](#)

Atkinson Conservation Commission Develops Accessible Trail

The Atkinson Conservation Commission is excited to announce they are developing a new "Accessible to All" trail system, located in the tranquil and scenic Slade Town Forest. It will provide a variety of immersive forest experiences, featuring some of the oldest trees in town. Trail users will also enjoy sweeping views of Stewart Farm Pond, a Prime Wetland. When completed, the new trails will be ADA compliant for wheelchair access.

[READ MORE](#)

Grants

State Funding for Conservation

NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP)

The New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program is an independent state authority that makes matching grants to NH communities and non-profits to conserve and preserve New Hampshire's most important natural, cultural and historic resources. Through this investment program, every \$1 in resources brings back more than four times local, private, federal funds, and helps to secure NH's greatest business advantage: The quality of life and traditional values of our state. [Learn more.](#)

Source Water Protection Grants

The Department of Environmental Services administers these grants, whose purpose is to provide funds to municipal or water suppliers to acquire land to protect water supplies. The land must be within a source water protection area as shown on GRANIT's water supply coverage layer. DES website has more information on [Drinking Water-Related Grants](#).

NH DES Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) fund

The Aquatic Resource Mitigation Program aims to sustain the functions and values of aquatic resources in New Hampshire through protection, enhancement and restoration of wetlands and streams, to compensate for the aquatic resources lost from development and other impacts. When wetland functions and values will be lost due to development, funds may be placed into the ARM fund. Fees collected by ARM are pooled within the same major watershed and then

distributed as competitive grants so that the money collected is going back to the areas affected by the project. For more information go to the [DES website](#).

Drinking-Water and Groundwater Trust Fund

This Fund, established under RSA 485-F, is intended to provide for the protection, preservation, and enhancement of the drinking water and groundwater resources of the state. In establishing the Fund, the legislature recognized the need to invest in the State's drinking water infrastructure requires a comprehensive strategy designed to ensure the continued availability of safe drinking water for all New Hampshire citizens. Eligible projects for funding include the permanent protection of undeveloped water supply land, including wellhead protection areas, hydrologic areas of concern, and land that is likely to benefit future public water supply sources. For more information go to the [Drinking and Ground Water Trust Fund website](#)

Mooseplate Grants

The State Conservation Committee's Conservation Grant Program supports and promotes programs and partnerships that protect, restore and enhance the state's valuable natural resources. The Conservation Grant Program's six focus areas include restoring water quality, creating or restoring wildlife habitat, soil conservation, best management practices for agriculture, stormwater or forestry, conservation planning, and land conservation projects. For more information go to the [NH Dept. of Agriculture website](#).

NHACC Wetlands Training Series

The NHACC has developed a comprehensive training program with the assistance of NH DES staff and wetlands scientists in order to improve the permit review process for both applicants and commissioners, while successfully protecting critical wetlands.

Commission members who view all five zoom programs and attend the two in person programs will be sent a certificate of completion in recognition of their commitment to protecting wetlands.

Wetlands Assessment Field Study

Friday, May 19, 1:00- 4 pm,

Locke Rd, Concord

Mary Ann Tilton, NH DES; Mark West, CWS; Marc Jacobs, CWS;

Rick Van de Poll, CWS; and Sandy Crystall, PWS

This field study session will build on the April 14 classroom program on the basics of wetlands assessment. Wetlands provide many benefits to people and wildlife and it is important to be able to determine what the highest values are in each individual wetland in order to protect their integrity. Each individual site has measurable physical features and ecological values that can be prioritized for protection. This session will include field stations that feature several functions and values including wildlife habitat, groundwater recharge, flood storage, sediment trapping, nutrient retention, and educational potential.

REGISTER

How to Review Plans

Friday, June 2, 1:00- 4 pm,

Conservation Center, 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord

Sandy Crystall, PWS and Mary Ann Tilton, NH DES, Barbara Richter, NHACC

The final session of the series will focus on the intake of wetlands permits, and how commissions can be more efficient and effective in their response to NH DES. This in-person program will provide case studies and examples for participants to review in order to learn how to interpret application and field information. Participants will learn how to review site plans to evaluate potential impacts on wetlands and offer comments to reduce and minimize those impacts. Presenters will highlight information that can help DES assess wetlands fill and dredge permit applications.

REGISTER

Training & Education Opportunities

AMC Offers Trail Skills College

Join the Appalachian Mountain Club and White Mountain National Forest at Trail Skills College at the Camp Dodge Trails Training Center from May 18–22, 2023. This year's 5-day event is filled with a variety of trainings, workshops, and evening programs that any trail or outdoor enthusiast would love. Registration for the **2023 Trail Skills College** is open for enrollment. This event is for the entire trails community—volunteer and professional trail stewards with all levels of experience. Whether you are just starting out and looking for ways to get involved, or a professional looking to further your skills and build your network, this event offers opportunities for everyone, and all are welcome!

NH Drinking Water Source Protection Conference

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) will hold its 2023 Drinking Water Source Protection Conference on **Tuesday, May 16**, at the Army National Guard Edward Cross Training Complex in Pembroke, NH. This year's conference will feature presentations on:

- US EPA's National Strategic Roadmap for PFAS.
- State legislative and Drinking Water Program Funding Updates.
- UNH research on the distribution and fate of PFAS in surface water.
- How to adopt municipal water use restriction codes applicable during drought.
- Examples and partnerships to conserve critical water supply lands.
- Case studies on adopting effective local zoning that protects groundwater quality.
- Public water system monitoring and response to cyanobacteria blooms.

The conference fee is \$45 and includes light refreshments/lunch.

REGISTER for the event at the [American Ground Water Trust website](#).

Visit our Website
[NHACC.org](https://www.nhacc.org)

Our mailing address is:
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