



September 2025 - eBulletin

Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission

The UVLSRPC newsletter returns this month as the summer comes to an end. The work never stops here at the RPC -- the eBulletin has everything you need to stay in the loop!

In this issue:

- **UVLSRPCorner** - Learn about an ongoing staff project!
 - **Final Household Hazardous Waste Collection Date**
 - **Public Participation Needed in Upcoming Ten-Year Plan Hearings**
 - Save the date for Local Solutions Conference
 - Take the Community Needs Assessment Survey
 - And more!
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UVLSRPCorner

*Join us every month in the **UVLSRPCorner** to learn more about our projects and the staff behind them!*

This month: Household Hazardous Waste Collections

Our Household Hazardous Waste collections have been very popular this year! With four collections already completed, we're well on our way to another successful season of keeping harmful chemicals out of our waste stream by encouraging residents to bring their HHW to *any* of these regional collections. It doesn't matter where the collection happens, if you're a resident of one of the participating towns, you can bring up to 5 gallons of HHW for free! This program has been funded by grants from USDA and NH DES to bring down the costs for our participating municipalities.

One of the benefits of the regional collections is a lower operational cost because municipalities save money by pooling resources and working together. If each were to run their own HHW collection, the costs would be astronomical for many of our small towns, requiring hours of coordination and logistics for municipal staff and time away from their regular duties. Through the regional collaboration on HHW, we get better rates for our communities from waste haulers, save municipalities time and money, and keep dangerous chemicals out of our soil and water.

We have added four more towns to our collections this year so now residents of Canaan, Croydon, Grantham, and Orange can bring up to 5 gallons/20 pounds to *any* of the regional collections! This is beneficial as people clean out their sheds and garages during the warmer months and might find more chemicals to dispose of after already having gone to a HHW collection. No worries – by holding regional collections, people can get rid of their waste quickly and not forget about it sitting in the back of a shed, possibly contaminating their property.

"But what if I have more than 5 gallons?" Don't worry, we can help you there too. While the regional collection model keeps costs down because of the 5 gallon personal limit, it's understandable that people may have more. We can take more than the 5 gallons for a reasonable fee – give us a call before the collection to get a quote.

Our last collection of the season will be **Saturday, September 27 at 52 Labombard Road in Lebanon**. For more information about our collections, visit hhw.uvlsrpc.org. We look forward to wrapping up a successful season and be on the lookout for more in 2026! Dates for collections will be announced early next year.

To volunteer or for information about HHW collections, contact Tim Josephson at 603-448-1680 or tjosephson@uvlsrpc.org.



More UVLSRP News

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Dates for 2025

Our final day for HHW Collections is approaching. Residents of **21 towns** in the UVLS region can participate in these collections for free — we welcome residents of Grantham and Canaan this year. For a list of all eligible municipalities and for more information, visit hhw.uvlsrpc.org

SAVE THE DATE:

- **Saturday, September 27 in Lebanon** at DHMC Lot 27, 52 Labombard Rd

If you have questions or need assistance with our HHW program, please contact Tim Josephson at tjosephson@uvlsrpc.org

UVLSRPC Data Collection

UVLSRPC offers data collection and assessments of various roadway infrastructure for towns. Assessment criteria was created in collaboration with NH Department of Transportation (**NHDOT**), UNH T2, the Regional Planning Commissions, and other State agencies. Data collected can be utilized to create long-term maintenance plans,

understand forecasted improvement costs, identify priority vulnerable infrastructure, as well as be used to support grant applications.

UVLSRPC currently offers data collection and assessment for:

- Stream Crossings/Culverts
- Drainage Culverts
- Pedestrian Facilities (e.g. crosswalks, sidewalks, bike lanes)
- Pavement Road Surface Management and Maintenance Forecasting

UVLSRPC has some funding to provide cost share opportunities for member communities on a first come first served basis. Please reach out to Ian Garland at igarland@uvlsrpc.org for more information!

School Chemical Safety Project and More!

The Commission received a \$172,000 USDA grant this year to provide solid waste management programs. The four major components of the grant will be for School Chemical Safety Trainings, Waste Management Trainings, Household Hazardous Waste Trainings, and Composting Trainings and Research.



We will be working with Becky Andersen of Hazardous Materials Consulting in Iowa again for the school chemical safety training as she is such a talented and experienced trainer with hands-on experience working with hazardous materials in schools and industry. The feedback from previous participants included comments to bring Becky back—and that's what we're doing. We will have several webinar trainings to teach school staff about the State-required Chemical Safety Hygiene Plans, how to write them, and how to enforce them. All schools are required to have these plans to address chemical safety in all classrooms, not just the laboratory. This includes many art classrooms and custodial closets. An additional webinar will address PCBs in schools as well as vapes.

To learn more about the school chemical safety webinars and more details about this project, please [click here](#). Once the webinars are scheduled, we will provide this information to all our municipalities and schools. Contact Victoria Davis at vdavis@uvlsrpc.org for more information.

UVLSRPC Staff Promote Clean Transportation Options at the Upper Valley EV Expo

Several staff members from UVLSRPC joined a group e-bike ride to the Upper Valley EV Expo last Saturday at Hartford Town Hall. Riders hopped on Kilton Library's fleet of electric bicycles to transport them to the Expo where attendees could take them out for a demo ride. Anybody interested in trying out one of Kilton's e-bikes can check them out [here](#).





Check Out the UVLSRPC YouTube Page

Find past webinars, recordings, trainings and more on our YouTube page. There are playlists from our School Chemical Safety series, our Food Scraps and Composting Series, Stormwater Management and Household Hazardous Waste. [Click here](#) to view!

Emergency Preparedness

September is National Preparedness Month

Since 2004, FEMA's Ready Campaign has observed National Preparedness Month each September. Their campaign this year is "Preparedness Starts at Home", which focuses on the essentials of preparedness.

The four main actions you can take to prepare for any emergency or disaster are: know your risk, create a family emergency plan, build an emergency supply kit, and get involved in your community.

[ReadyNH.gov/](#) is New Hampshire's official source for information during state emergencies. On their page, you'll find links to sign up to get New Hampshire specific emergency alerts, check out news releases, make an emergency plan and kit, and more. For more information on National Preparedness Month, please visit [ready.gov/september](#)

If you'd like to sign up to receive alerts about hazardous weather in your area, visit [NH Alerts](#) and enter your email and/or phone number.

National Preparedness Month

Preparedness Starts At Home



Housing

Share Your Thoughts on Housing in Lebanon

The [Lebanon Housing Task Force](#) invites all community members to participate in a

Community Housing Survey. Whether renting or owning, seeking entry-level housing or multi-million-dollar options, everyone's perspective is essential to help shape the future of housing in Lebanon.

Why This Survey Matters

Lebanon is facing a significant housing shortage and needs a range of housing types to meet the needs of current and future residents. This includes:

- Owner-occupied and rental housing
- Homes across all price points and styles
- Housing that supports the diverse lifestyles and life stages of the community

Input is needed from residents at every income level and with all types of housing experiences—from long-time homeowners to new renters, and from young professionals to retirees.

What the Survey Covers

The survey asks for input on:

- How Lebanon's current housing options are affecting daily life
- What types of housing are needed going forward
- The challenges residents face in finding suitable housing, regardless of price point

Why Participate?

The feedback collected will help city staff and consultants:

- Recommend housing policies that reflect real community needs
- Guide the Housing Chapter of the Lebanon Master Plan
- Create a long-term Strategic Plan to respond to housing challenges and opportunities

Survey Details

- Takes 10 minutes or less to complete
- Open to all residents—owners and renters alike
- Anonymous and confidential
- Designed to reflect the full range of experiences and expectations in Lebanon's housing market

All responses are anonymous.

Click [here](#) to take the survey!

Transportation

Save the Dates for the Upcoming Ten-Year Plan Hearings

All are welcome to give comments and testimony on transportation projects included in NHDOT's Transportation Improvement Plan on the following dates:

- 10/2 at 6pm in Newport
- 10/9 at 7pm in Newbury
- 10/20 at 6pm in Plymouth
- 10/21 at 7pm in

New Hampshire is required by law to update its Ten-Year Plan (TYP) for transportation improvements every 2 years. This effort is managed by an entity called the "Governor's Advisory Committee on Intermodal Transportation" or "GACIT."

The purpose of these Hearings is to receive public comments/testimony on transportation projects and priorities included in the draft 2027-2036 Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan, as recommended by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation to GACIT.

Those not able to attend the meetings can submit written testimony within 10 days of the completion of the Public Hearings.

Visit NHDOT's page [here](#) for more information.

Upcoming EV Workforce Readiness Webinar

UVLSRPC Planner John Haffner will join a discussion on the EV workforce readiness of the region. The discussion is hosted by Northeastern Energy Efficiency Partnerships and will also include panelists from Vermont Clean Communities Coalition and Live Green CT. John will discuss key findings from recent clean transportation and workforce needs assessments conducted by UVLSRPC and Vital Communities.

Register Here: https://neep-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eo5J2ZM_T2GkEXT_ZgpfCQ



EV Technician Trainings Coming to the Upper Valley

UVLSRPC is helping to coordinate a series of free and low-cost EV training opportunities for mechanics in our region. The trainings will be offered by the **Advance Vehicle Technologies Group (AVTG)** and will prepare participants for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certification in EV maintenance. Maintenance technicians with municipalities and transit providers are encouraged to participate.

The first training is scheduled online for October 1st and 2nd, but will subsequently be available on demand. It is a free training that will cover **EV Safety Essentials**. Future trainings will be in-person and cover low-voltage and high-voltage systems.

Interested participants should email John Haffner at jhaffner@uvlsrpc.org to register.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

SAVE THE DATE: UPCOMING TEN-YEAR-PLAN (TYP) HEARINGS

Date/Time	Municipality	Location
10/2 at 6pm	Newport	Newport Recreation Community Center
10/9 at 7pm	Newbury	Town Office, 937 NH Route 103
10/20 at 6pm	Plymouth	Pease Public Library, 1 Russel Street
10/21 at 7pm	Lebanon	City Council Chambers, 51 N. Park Street - downstairs



Meet NHDOT's New Mascot

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) has welcomed their new mascot, Hazel Mae. As their new road safety ambassador, Hazel Mae supports the Driving Toward Zero campaign, which is a campaign designed to eliminate traffic fatalities in New Hampshire.

Meet Hazel Mae:

New Hampshire's Newest Road Safety Ambassador

NHDTZ.com



Big Mission: Small Shell

Speed is consistently identified as one of the critical emphasis areas for any highway safety plan. Because drivers operate vehicles capable of extreme speeds and have the ability to choose their own speeds, it is critical that they understand the risks associated with excess speed and the resulting consequences. The New Hampshire Department of Transportation branded the 'Slow and Steady' campaign, with our mascot, Hazel Mae, to promote safe speeds through several outreach measures.

Objectives

- Inspired by the timeless fable of the tortoise and the hare, Hazel Mae represents safe, steady, and thoughtful driving.
- She supports the Driving Toward Zero campaign with a warm, family-friendly message.
- Hazel Mae helps people connect with the message—personally and positively.

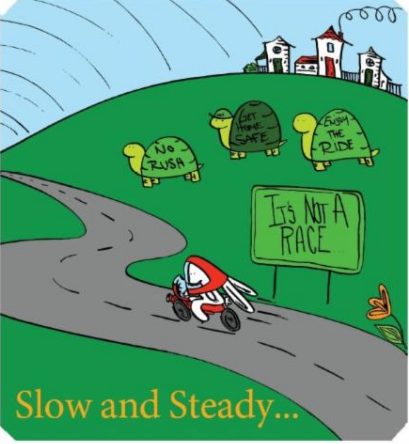
Goals

- Let's make safety feel human
- Reach New Audiences
- Support Driving Toward Zero

Target Audience

- Families with young children
- New and teen drivers
- Social media audiences





Participate in a "Week Without Driving" in the Upper Valley Sept. 29th - October 5th

UVLSRPC has signed on as a partner for a "**Week Without Driving**" a national coalition of advocates that work together to call for transportation options that strengthen and expand access for everyone in every community. As a partner we are organizing several events and guided transit and bike rides for this week, including:

- **A Rail Trail Commuter Ride on September 30th** - Commuters will meet at Depot Park in Canaan at 8am and Depot Street in Enfield at 8:30 for a group ride on the Northern Rail Trail to Lebanon. Email Tim Josephson at tjosephson@uvlsrpc.org if you are interested in participating.
- **A Transit-to-Trails guided bus ride TBD**. Participants will travel to one of our many local walking paths via Advance Transit. Participants will learn the basic skills of riding the bus such as navigating route schedules, boarding the bus, making a transfer, and requesting a stop. Join new and experienced riders alike as we connect with our community and enjoy accessing nature through public transit! Email John Haffner at jhaffner@uvlsrpc.org if you are interested.
- **A Bike-to-Trails guided ride on October 4th** - Upper Valley bikers and organizers behind the **West Lebanon and Hanover Greenway (WaHG)** initiative will lead a group ride in West Lebanon from Kilton Library to Boston Lot. This ride will feature the challenges of biking along our major transportation corridors and the future possibilities of more networked bike/ped infrastructure. Email John Haffner at jhaffner@uvlsrpc.org if you are interested.

Northeastern Energy Efficiency Partnership (NEEP) Storymap

Since 2023, UVLSRPC has been working in a consortium of partners lead by Northeastern Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP) on developing community-driven clean transportation plans. NEEP has recently developed an EV Knowledge Hub StoryMap full of charts, interactive tools, videos, and resources about electric vehicles.

[Click here](#) to check it out!

2026 NHDOT Traffic Fatality Summit

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) Highway Safety has announced that their 2026 Traffic Fatality Summit will take place on **Monday, February 9th from 9AM-2PM at the NH National Guard Training Facility in Pembroke.**

This summit is for NH First Responders to meet, discuss what they are facing when responding to MVA's involving serious injuries & fatalities. This is a great opportunity for Fire/PD/EMS to share concerns, needs, observations and help develop a plan to reduce traffic fatalities.

Click this link to register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2026-nh-dot-fatality-summit-tickets-1437769119139?aff=oddttdtcreator>

Environment and Energy

Funding Available through the Granite State Clean Fleets Grant Program

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Mobile Sources team has released a \$7.5 million request for proposals (RFP) through the Granite State Clean Fleets (GSCF) program.



GSCF is a competitive reimbursement program funded by the [Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust](#) (VW Trust) focused on reducing diesel emissions by replacing Class 4-8 diesel vehicles, engines and equipment, or installing marine shore power systems. This new round of funding provides up to a 95% reimbursement for eligible projects from state and municipally run entities such as school districts, public community colleges/universities and transit agencies.

NHDES anticipates this will be the final funding round for diesel vehicles, engine and equipment replacements under the VW Trust, so applicants are encouraged to take full advantage of this unique opportunity.

Applications are accepted on a rolling monthly basis until March 30, 2026, at 4 p.m. ET or earlier if all funds are obligated.

More information on eligibility, funding limits, and grant requirements can be found in the GSCF RFP, which is located on the [GSCF webpage](#). Terms and conditions of the GSCF program are subject to change. Prior applicants are encouraged to thoroughly review the RFP for updated guidance.

Questions may also be forwarded to the Grants Program Coordinator, Mac Bevier, via email to ms-grants@des.nh.gov or by phone at [\(603\) 271-8330](tel:603-271-8330).

Water System Sustainability Grant Program Now Accepting Applications

The Water System Sustainability Grant Program is currently accepting applications **now through October 3, 2025**, for asset management grants and strategic planning grants to assist community drinking water systems with sustainable operations and capacity

development. Asset management grants are available for up to \$30,000 for new asset management programs or \$20,000 for improvements to existing asset management programs and strategic planning grants are available for up to \$30,000 for developing preliminary engineering and/or hydrogeological reports. All grants require a match of 50% of the awarded grant amount.

Additional details are available on the [application form webpage](#).

Model Solar Ordinance Guidelines

To view the recently updated New Hampshire Model Solar Zoning Ordinance from Clean Energy NH, please click [here](#).

NH Fish and Game Needs Your Help!

NH Fish and Game is looking for information on turkey broods this summer! If you have seen young turkeys, click the link below and help New Hampshire Fish and Game keep track of the health of our wild turkey population!

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSccqVseueruWrcojzF_AeDCpSHMjfK9WCvmf_YOUGQt9X2MdA/viewform

Voluntary Well Testing for Private Well Owners

Roughly half of New Hampshire residents get their water from a private well. Well water can contain substances that are harmful, especially if consumed over a long time. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) offers a voluntary program that partners with towns to organize water testing events for private well owners. These events make it easier for residents to test for common contaminants and better understand their water quality.



If you or your town is interested in testing private wells, please visit <https://www.des.nh.gov/water/drinking-water/private-wells> or contact Amy Hudnor, Private Well and Risk Communication Coordinator, at amy.hudnor@des.nh.gov

Save the Date: Local Solutions Conference 2025

Registration is now open for the Local Solutions: Bouncing Forward to Create Resilient Communities. **It will take place on September 18 and 19 from 8am-5pm, at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH.**

This conference will offer professional development opportunities through training sessions, facilitated presentations, panels, and both formal and informal networking for a diverse group of stakeholders, including federal, state, and tribal representatives, nonprofits, businesses, scientists, and frontline community groups.

This year's conference will focus on affordable and resilient housing, community health, and energy and flood resilience. The first day of the conference will consist of training and site visits highlighting innovative solutions, followed by an evening keynote reception. Day two of the conference will consist of sessions in the topic areas showcasing how to implement best practices at the local and regional levels. There will be a second keynote lunch speaker and a concluding panel on how to finance these local solutions.

Participants who attend can expect to:

- Identify and compile best practices to address commonly experienced challenges from extreme weather events through sharing, learning, and relationship-building to enable action.
- Emerge from the convening with clarity in how to take the next planning and implementation steps for building resilience in your community and in partnership with others in your region.
- Discuss with other participants how this community of practice can be continued among those with similar challenges to promote resilience in housing, public health, energy, and flooding.
- Participants will return to their communities with tools and knowledge to engage all perspectives, ensuring that all voices are heard and valued in building a more resilient future together.

The conference food will be vegetarian with vegan and gluten-free options.

To register for the event, click [here](#).

Municipal Support & Economic Development

NHMA Guidance on Changes to Laws Governing Elections, Town Meetings, & More

The New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) has posted updates to their guidance on elections, town meetings, zoning, land-use, and more.

To view the new guidance documents, click [here](#).

BEA Planning Lunches at Noon Webinar for Recent Changes to Planning, Zoning, and Building Code Laws

The New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA) is hosting a webinar on **September 18th from 12-1:30PM** on the recent changes to New Hampshire's planning, zoning, and building code laws.

The webinar will cover topics regarding the expanded use of third-party inspectors for building permit review, single-stair buildings, vesting periods, and more. Panelists will include OPD Principal Planner Noah Hodgetts, City of Lebanon Deputy Planning and Development Director Tim Corwin, and City of Keene Plans Examiner Michael Hagan.

To register for this webinar, [click here](#).

AgeWellNH Looking For Your Input

AgeWellNH, an initiative of the NH State Commission on Aging, recently launched a survey to gather public input for a 10-year vision to make NH a better place to grow older. Like elsewhere in the state, the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee region is rapidly aging. This demographic shift requires a strategic vision for how to adapt to the needs of an aging population.

Click [here](#) to take the survey.

For information on Molly's scheduled conversations, please email Molly at

New Hampshire Rural Economic Development Funding Calendar

The NH-VT office of USDA Rural Development and the NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA) has created a planning resource to help rural municipalities find economic development funding opportunities in one document. Click the link below to download the calendar from BEA and find out more!

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/media/file/download/new-hampshire-rural-economic-development-funding-calendar.pdf>

Community Happenings

Save the Date for the 5th Annual Ride for Resilience

Tomorrow, September 12th, join in on the annual Ride for Resilience, a 100-mile charity bicycle ride that benefits New Hampshire's family support organizations. This year's ride will tour through the Upper Valley region and will highlight the following family centers: TLC Family Resource Center in Claremont and Lebanon, and Waypoint's Upper Valley Family Resource Center in Lebanon.

To register for this event, [click here](#).

Styrofoam Collection in White River Junction

Open to all residents of the Upper Valley in Vermont and New Hampshire! This event is co-sponsored by the Hartford Climate Action Steering Team, the White River Rotary Club, Mascoma Bank, and the New England Grassroots Environmental Fund.

This collection will take place on October 4th from 9-11AM (rain or shine) at Mascoma Bank, located at 243 Sykes Mountain Ave, in White River Junction, Vermont.

Keep in mind the following items CANNOT be recycled:

- NO packing peanuts
- NO foam insulation boards
- NO pipe insulation
- If you can bend it, it is NOT Styrofoam

The following items CAN be recycled:

- Styrofoam (#6) -- but do NOT break into very small pieces
- Clean #6 food, drink, and egg containers (no oil or food residue)
- Remove tape and labels

Cash and check donations are welcome at the event to offset the costs of renting and fueling the UHauls trucks.

Borrow an E-Bike!

The Upper Valley E-Bike Lending Library is a free selection of four e-bikes of assorted styles and retail costs that has one- and two-week residencies in towns and workplaces throughout the Upper Valley. While the e-bike library is stationed at a particular lending location, people can try multiple bikes at "Demo Days" or sign up to borrow a single bike overnight to see how an e-bike

might fit into your lifestyle. Book a bike [here](#)!



Full Commission Meeting Dates FY 2026

- **October 8, 2025**
- **December 10, 2025**
- **February 11, 2026**
- **April 8, 2026**



If you have any questions or concerns, please call Chris at 603-448-1680.

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