



October 2025 - eBulletin

Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission

The UVLSRPC newsletter returns this month as fall weather approaches. 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!
 - **Public Participation Needed in Upcoming Ten-Year Plan Hearings**
 - Celebrate Cybersecurity Awareness and Community Transportation this October
 - Share Your Thoughts on Housing In Lebanon
 - Register Now for NHDOT's Traffic Fatality Summit in 2026
 - 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 Collection

Our Household Hazardous Waste collections were 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.

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

More UVLSRP News

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.



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

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

The Cyber Infrastructure and Security Agency has spent over 20 years highlighting the importance of taking daily action to reduce risks when online and using connected devices. Cybersecurity involves preventing, detecting and responding to cyberattacks that can have wide-ranging effects on individuals, organizations, the community and the nation.

Cyberattacks are malicious attempts to access or damage a computer or network system. They can lead to the loss of money or the theft of personal, financial and medical information. These attacks can damage your reputation and safety.

Cyber attacks can happen in the following ways:

- Accessing your personal computers, mobile phones, gaming systems, and other internet and Bluetooth-connected devices
- Damaging your financial security, including identity theft
- Blocking your access or deleting your personal information and accounts
- Complicating your employment or business services
- Impacting transportation and the power grid

Here are ways you can protect your self and your information from cyber attacks:

- Check your account statements and credit reports regularly
- Use antivirus and anti-malware solutions, and firewalls to block threats
- Back up your files regularly in an encrypted file or encrypted file storage device
- Remember the government will not call, text, or contact you via social media about owing money
- Protect your home and/or business using a secure Internet connection and Wi-Fi network, and change passwords regularly

For more information, please visit <https://www.cisa.gov/national-cyber-security-awareness-month>

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.



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

October is Community Transportation Month

In New Hampshire, community transportation means more than just buses. It includes all the ways residents get where they need to go: shuttles, vanpools, volunteer driver programs, pedestrian networks, paratransit, non-emergency medical transportation, and more.

This #CommunityTransportationMonth, we celebrate the essential rides that bring our communities to health, hope, and healing. And we honor the drivers, coordinators, and systems that keep New Hampshire moving — and connected to the care we all deserve.

Whether it's reducing traffic and pollution or improving access to opportunity, community transportation keeps New Hampshire connected — affordably, efficiently, and equitably.



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:

- **10/20 at 6pm in Plymouth**
- **10/21 at 7pm in Lebanon**

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.

Lunch & Learn: Getting to Appointments with Medicaid

Join ABLE NH's Transportation Equity Task Force for a Lunch & Learn on the Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) provided by WellSense, NH Healthy Families, AmeriHealth Caritas, and Medicaid Dental Services for appointments. This event will include a presentation and Q&A. Attendees will receive a one-pager on the most important things to know when requesting a ride or reimbursement.

This lunch and learn will take place on Friday, October 24th from 12-1pm.

[Click here to join the Zoom.](#)

Non-Emergency Medical Transportation: GETTING TO APPOINTMENTS WITH MEDICAID

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Featured Speakers

Catrina Rantala Provider Relations Manager, DHHS

MCO Representatives from WellSense, NH Healthy Families, AmeriHealth Caritas, and NH Adult Dental Medicaid

Broker Representatives from MTM and CTS

ABLENH
DISABILITY JUSTICE ADVOCATES



Mark your calendars for:

October 24, 12-1 PM

Zoom Meeting ID 843 8946 0204

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84389460204>

Save Image
and Press or
Scan to Join



Contact: creighton@ablenh.org

Website: ablenh.org

Instagram: [@ablenh](https://www.instagram.com/ablenh)

X: [@ablenh1](https://twitter.com/ablenh1)

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=oddtcreator>

Environment and Energy

Bringing C-PACER to NH Communities

Join Clean Energy NH and NH Business Finance Authority for a webinar on Wednesday, October 22nd, from 12-1pm to learn of New Hampshire's new C-PACER financing program. They'll discuss key benefits of the program, for communities of all sizes, and the process and implications of approving a C-PACER district.

Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy and Resiliency (“C-PACER”) is a new program available in New Hampshire that helps commercial property owners and developers access advantageous private-sector financing for improvements intended to save energy costs or improve a building's resiliency (e.g. fire and flood protection).

Where does the planning community fit in here?

Before project(s) can take advantage of this new financing option, the relevant municipality must adopt a C-PACER ordinance or resolution. Local planning boards and planners will need to understand what this program is and why/whether to authorize a C-PACER district via the appropriate municipal processes.

[Click here](#) to learn more and register.

Cyanobacteria in New Hampshire’s Lakes: New Findings and Updated Messaging from NHDES Webinar

Join NH Lakes for an update from Amy Smagula at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services on the status of cyanobacteria blooms in New Hampshire’s lakes during Summer 2025 and find out what to look out for this fall. Amy will also explain the updated messaging from NHDES regarding public health guidance.

This webinar will take place on Wednesday, October 15, 2025, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Pre-registration is required, but is free.

Register [here](#).

NHDES 2026 Local Source Water Protection Grant Applications Due November 1st

Grants are available from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services to develop and implement programs to protect local sources of drinking water. Public water suppliers, municipalities, regional planning agencies, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, conservation districts, and watershed associations are eligible to receive funding. Grant projects must protect surface or groundwater actively used or that will be used in the future by public water systems as sources of drinking water.

Applicants can receive up to **\$25,000** for non-climate related source protection projects including certain activities required under US EPA’s Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit that work to limit stormwater impacts and protect source water. Routine operations/maintenance activities required under MS4 permits are not eligible.

Applicants can receive up to **\$30,000** for a source protection project that addresses climate/weather-related challenges – flooding, drought, cyanobacteria blooms, stormwater pollution, erosion, and sedimentation. This funding is offered to help public water systems and communities become more resilient, sustainable and save money in the long-term. Further guidance can be found at the end of the information packet.

The application is now available online to allow time for applicants to identify key partners/stakeholders and craft a high-quality grant proposal. NHDES is happy to confer and exchange ideas with potential applicants in advance of the development of an application. **Applications are due November 1, 2025.**

For more information, visit [Local Source Water Protection Grant | NH Department of Environmental Services](#)

NHDES Asbestos Program Survey

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) is conducting a

survey regarding the [Asbestos program](#) in the Air Resources Division. As a result of the readoption of the [asbestos rule in November 2024](#), NHDES is seeking your feedback about the improvements made to the rule and the [new online asbestos notification system](#).

Please be aware that the survey will only be available until November 14, 2025 at 4:30 pm.

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

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).

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

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](#).

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 msinger@dexteritymanagement.com

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

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 15, 2025**
- **December 10, 2025**
- **February 11, 2026**
- **April 8, 2026**



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

**Upper Valley Lake Sunapee
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