



The State of New Hampshire  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

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Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte  
and the Honorable Council  
State House  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

Pursuant to RSA 21-O:18, VI, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) hereby submits its biennial report for fiscal years 2024-2025 on pollution prevention (P2) activities. The report highlights the department's work to integrate and promote P2 practices during the reporting period.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please feel free to contact Ann Astarita, Pollution Prevention Coordinator ([ann.s.astarita@des.nh.gov](mailto:ann.s.astarita@des.nh.gov), 603-271-6398) or Alyssa Moodie, Pollution Prevention Program Manager ([alyssa.a.moodie@des.nh.gov](mailto:alyssa.a.moodie@des.nh.gov), 603-271-6460).

Respectfully submitted,

Robert R. Scott  
Commissioner

# 2024-2025 Biennial Pollution Prevention Report



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**Pollution prevention**, also called P2, refers to activities or strategies that reduce or eliminate waste at the source by modifying production processes, promoting the use of non-toxic or less-toxic substances, implementing conservation techniques and reusing materials rather than adding them to the waste stream.

Since 1991, the New Hampshire Pollution Prevention Program (NHPPP) has provided free, non-enforcement based, compliance and pollution prevention assistance to the state's businesses, municipalities, public agencies, organizations and residents. NHPPP works with hundreds of New Hampshire businesses, helping collectively save millions of dollars on everything from toxics alternatives, material purchases, water and energy savings, hazardous and solid waste management and disposal costs. NHPPP assists in the form of compliance assistance, educational outreach, site assessments and technical research.

This biennial report highlights the program's activities for fiscal years 2024 and 2025. During this reporting period with costs partially offset by a matching P2 grant of \$200,000 from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), NHPPP focused on several business sectors and projects, including hazardous waste generators and craft beverage manufacturers.

In the spirit of Pollution Prevention (P2), this biennial report is primarily provided in an electronic format to minimize paper use and printing costs. If you would like a paper copy or additional information about any of the projects discussed, please contact the NHPPP staff at [nhppp@des.nh.gov](mailto:nhppp@des.nh.gov). You can also visit the [New Hampshire Pollution Prevention Program webpage](#). We look forward to hearing from you.

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## **I. Introduction**

P2 uses materials, processes or practices that reduce or eliminate the creation of pollutants or waste at the source, or minimize their release into the environment prior to recycling, treatment or disposal. When practiced, P2 avoids or minimizes the transfer of pollutants or waste generation and later disposal from one medium, such as air, water or land, to another.

P2 practices:

- Reduce the use of hazardous materials, energy, water or other resources.
- Protect natural resources and human health through conservation, more efficient use or effective release minimization.
- Result in a greater net pollution prevention benefit, recognizing that improving one aspect of a process or activity may have other environmental effects, both positive and negative.

P2 is a proven strategy that drives measurable and cost-effective improvements in business performance and environmental outcomes. Prioritizing P2 leads to long-term benefits, such as less waste, decreased energy and water consumption, and the adoption of more sustainable practices that can improve success.

## **II. Biennium at a Glance**

During the biennium, NHPPP completed free non-enforcement-based compliance assistance on P2 strategies for more than 30 New Hampshire businesses, institutions, municipalities and agencies and answered hundreds of public requests for pollution prevention assistance. NHPPP staff represented New Hampshire on several clearinghouses and committees including the Interstate Mercury Education & Reduction Institute (IMERC); the interstate Toxics in Packaging Clearinghouse (TPCH); interstate Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) meetings; Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse (IC2) meetings; and EPA meetings for the Sustainable Craft Brewing grant. NHPPP also participated in public events with the goal of directly engaging the public in pollution prevention activities including Girl Scouts Expo, farmers' markets; Discover Wild New Hampshire Day and more. These events allow NHPPP to reach more members of the public on how to implement pollution prevention and sustainability strategies in the real world and help spread knowledge by distributing fact sheets and personalizing the experience for event attendees. NHPPP also administers the municipal Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) grant program. Finally, NHPPP staff provided classroom instruction of "P2 for Breweries" at the University of New Hampshire.

### III. Core Activities

At NHDES, the main activities of NHPPP involve helping New Hampshire businesses and residents examine their processes, look at the waste they generate, and use the [Waste Management Hierarchy](#) to “avoid, reduce, reuse or recycle” that waste. This includes federal, state and municipal partnerships, interstate group work and guidance to those in need of P2 assistance.

NHPPP’s core activities include:

- Source reduction – modifying processes to use less input materials and minimize waste.
- Free, non-enforcement technical assistance – identifying opportunities for streamlining, P2 and sustainable practices.
- Recognition and promotion of sustainable practices – supporting efficient resource use.
- Educational Resources and outreach – training, recycling options and encouraging materials re-use.



In addition to its core activities, in fiscal year 2024 NHPPP assumed additional tasks associated with PFAS in Consumer Products, and representation with other NHDES groups on the Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse (IC2).

For over 30 years, NHPPP successfully has offered free, non-enforcement-based compliance assistance and P2 strategies to all requesting New Hampshire businesses, institutions, municipalities and agencies. Without the risk of enforcement, facilities can schedule a site visit or virtual meeting during which NHPPP staff will assist with compliance issues and offer suggestions to reduce waste, raw material use, energy inputs and water consumption. If waste elimination is not feasible, NHPPP helps educate facilities to ensure they are knowledgeable in the proper management and disposal of waste generated and the applicable regulations required for compliance. After the visit, staff submit a complimentary report containing observations and suggestions for implementing P2 strategies.

NHPPP also provides support by phone and email to encourage more facilities to reach out and utilize P2 practices.

## **IV. Outreach**

NHPPP successfully reached thousands of New Hampshire residents and businesses through information calls, on-site visits, workshops, training, webinars and the publication of numerous fact sheets and other documents. Known for partnerships with other governmental, non-governmental and industry trade organizations, NHPPP encourages businesses to scrutinize processes for P2, energy savings and hazardous waste reduction opportunities. NHPPP also represents NHDES at several interstate groups with a focus on mercury education and reduction, toxics in packaging, the feasibility of extended producer responsibility, reducing toxic chemical use, and PFAS in consumer products.

### **Public Assistance**

Among the goals of NHPPP is to assist the public in preventing pollution. Receiving regular phone and email inquiries from the public on such diverse topics as mercury cleanup, boat disposal and household hazardous waste, NHPPP finds the public open to and encouraged by P2 solutions. In fiscal year 2024, NHPPP responded to 118 requests for assistance; and in fiscal year 2025 that number increased to 144 requests. Public questions included requests for information on energy audits, alternatives to toxic chemicals and proper vape disposal.

NHPPP and NHDES fact sheets, guidance documents and best management practices provide important public information regarding topics such as [universal waste](#), [mercury education and reduction](#) and [Hazardous Waste Coordinator training](#).

## **V. Tackling Environmental Issues of Concern**

Under [NH RSA 21-O:15](#), NHPPP cooperates and assists in the development and implementation of P2 measures for state government. NHPPP implements this statutory instruction within internal and external partnerships on a diversity of environmental issues of concern to New Hampshire.

### **PFAS – PFOA**

PFAS – or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances – are linked to such health problems, as certain cancers, high cholesterol, weakened immune systems, development issues and more. They are commonly used in industrial and consumer products for properties such as stain- and water-resistance. Discharges containing PFAS have caused significant water and soil contamination in several New Hampshire communities.

## P2 and Partners

During the biennium, NHDES personnel provided technical assistance at Simple Life Recycling LLC in Rochester to review environmental compliance and pollution prevention opportunities. The company recycles used coolant/oil, removes the metal turnings, returns coolant/oil to the customer and reclaims the scrap metal for recycle. P2 principles were shared and implemented.

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The NHPPP hosted a table at the popular family event *Discover Wild NH Day* presented by New Hampshire Fish & Game. The focus of the table was reducing waste at the source. Staff provided information to residents and visitors about the safe management and storage of chemicals in the home and shared tips on how to pack a waste-free lunch.

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The fiscal years 2024 and 2025 had many New Hampshire residents reaching out to NHDES requesting a resource covering disposal of used or expired fire extinguishers. NHPPP, in conjunction with the New Hampshire Fire Marshal's Office and the Rochester Fire Department, created such a resource which is now available on the NHDES [Managing My Waste](#) webpage. There, households can review an easy-to-use, A-Z list providing information on how to safely and properly manage different household waste streams.

On August 6, 2024, Governor Christopher Sununu signed a [law](#) relative to: (a) the prohibition of certain products with intentionally added PFAS, (b) civil actions for PFAS contamination and (c) the settlement of lawsuits against manufacturers of PFAS for impacts to public drinking water systems.

To implement the legislation focusing on intentionally added PFAS in certain consumer products, NHPPP assisted with drafting administrative rules and consulted with other states regarding new PFAS legislation and implementation. Considerations included protection of New Hampshire's residents and businesses using cost-effective P2 practices. The rules for PFAS in Consumer Products are in the draft stage as of this writing.

### Lithium-ion Battery Disposal Ban

[Lithium-ion batteries](#) (Li-ion) are a type of rechargeable battery used in a wide variety of consumer goods, including cordless power tools, electric vehicles, bikes, hoverboards and scooters, electronic devices, lawncare equipment, personal care items and toys. Li-ion batteries should never be put in the trash or mixed recycling due to the threat of [thermal runaway](#) (the uncontrollable self-heating of a battery cell causing unmanageable fires) which can result in hazardous material discharge into the environment.

To address this challenge, on August 27, 2024, the legislature passed [HB 1386](#) which, as of July 1, 2025, bans Li-ion battery disposal in all New Hampshire landfills and incinerators. This law applies to everyone in New Hampshire, residents and industry.

NHPPP helped announce the new law and provide New Hampshire residents and businesses with safe options for Li-ion battery disposal before the ban became effective. NHDES created social media posts, online notifications, signage, online magazine articles, in-person training and guidance documents related to the disposal ban. These consistently updated materials inform the public, municipalities and transfer station employees on the safe and proper disposal of Li-ion batteries, including vapes, and damaged, defective or recalled (DDR) batteries.



*Pictured left to right: Nathan Moyer, Elyssa Moyer, Sara Johnson and Alyssa Moodie. Photo by Andrew Gould.*

## Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

The [HHW Program](#) provides grant funds to municipalities that support more than 60 annual HHW collection events across the state. To help communities and their municipal solid waste facilities manage homeowner generated hazardous wastes, the NHDES administers a [Household Hazardous Waste grant program](#). HHW Collection Grants are awarded to eligible municipalities and eligible regional waste disposal districts at a designated per capita rate for the communities served.

Year	Number of Grants	Amount
2024	21	\$197,867
2025	22	\$198,901

NHDES provided regular multi-media guidance and visits to municipalities and waste disposal districts throughout the grant process from application, contract review and documentation review, to the application for release of state grant funds.

## Air Emissions

In December 2024, NHDES reviewed processes and permits held by a small business in western New Hampshire. Paint spray booth and air scrubbing techniques were examined with facility personnel and they were able to implement several compliance recommendations while the NHDES team was still onsite.

## VI. External Partnerships

NHPPP benefits the New Hampshire community by participating actively with other states, non-profits and non-governmental organizations tackling environmental issues of concern and learning from the ingenuity and work of others.

### Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – Sustainable Craft Beverage Program

NHPPP's largest external partner is the [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#). Through a P2 grant under the Food and Beverage Industry, NHPPP received a \$200,000 matching grant to focus on [EPA's Pollution Prevention](#) program.

The NHPPP first started working with craft beverage producers in early 2016. The craft beverage industry is a water and energy intensive sector, which caught the attention of the NHPPP. EPA grants enable NHDES to expand its work within this sector to provide technical assistance and aid in waste minimization. The work consisted of onsite and virtual visits, outreach and educational materials, webinars and training events. The technical assistance requests focused on the management of wastewater, sustainability and resources to improve energy efficiency, water conservation and waste reduction.

### Sustainable Craft Beverage Program – Case Study Highlight: To Share Brewing Company

[To Share Brewing Company](#) became a member of Better Bev Green Craft Beverage Recognition Program on February 22, 2024, working to implement sustainable practices for the environment and the bottom line.

Their staple beer "Heck Yeah!", an American Light Lager, uses enzymes to reduce the amount of grain required in the brewing process. Utilizing enzymes to reduce grain consumption is not a common practice brewers use, as it requires research, trial and error, and commitment to maximize results.

By using enzymes, To Share reduced grain requirements by nearly half, from 400 plus pounds of grain used to roughly 220 pounds to create the same 4% ABV content. On an annual basis, this saves around \$729 worth of grain. Due to the reduced amount of grain needed for this brew, the process used less water. This yielded a water savings of 375 gallons annually. Also, To Share reduced total transportation emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> by 101 kg per year.

To Share encourages other brewers to experiment with enzymes not only for the flavor and cost savings, but for the environmental benefits as well.

Throughout the biennium, NHPPP staff conducted 15 site visits and provided guidance to 31 craft beverage producers along with follow-up, yielding 80 facility improvement recommendations which were implemented. NHPPP staff attended several meetings with industry experts and jointly conducted several site visits with other EPA Region 1 grantees to improve the effectiveness of the technical assistance program. The facility improvements implemented during this biennium allowed the craft beverage producers to save 193 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> and \$52,660 with many of the individual producers seeing additional annual cost savings.

The [New Hampshire Sustainable Craft Beverage](#) Recognition Program partnered with other EPA Region 1 states including, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Vermont to launch a regional program called the [BetterBev Green Craft Beverage Recognition Program](#), which was based on New Hampshire's original program. Participants in the program receive free technical assistance including best management practices as well as valuable feedback that increases the triple bottom line - environmental, societal and economic performance.

NHPPP welcomed 11 new craft beverage producers to the BetterBev recognition program during this biennium as well as the first distillery. New Hampshire currently recognizes nine breweries, two wineries, one cidery and one distillery. Recognition in the program requires an application, verification visit and efforts for continuous P2 improvement. In exchange, NHPPP provides free technical assistance, promotes facilities' efforts using online media and identifies recognized facilities on program maps in both New Hampshire and the EPA's BetterBev northeast region.

### **Interstate Mercury Education and Reduction Clearinghouse (IMERC)**

NHDES is a member of the [IMERC](#), which is an organization that provides ongoing technical and programmatic assistance to states that have enacted mercury education and reduction legislation; and a single point of contact for industry and the public for information on mercury-added products and member states' mercury education and reduction programs.

New Hampshire's mercury reduction statute ([RSA 149-M:52 – 58a](#)) restricts the sale of certain mercury-added products. NHPPP staff participate in twice monthly calls and monthly reviews to ensure businesses are working to reduce the use and sale of mercury-added products in New Hampshire and other IMERC member states. During this period, New Hampshire identified sources selling mercury containing products that had been reported as phased out in states with a ban on the sale of these devices. IMERC, working with member states, contacted these companies to inform them that it was illegal to sell in these states.

## Toxics in Packaging Clearinghouse (TPCH)

NHPPP is a member of the [TPCH](#), which coordinates implementation of state legislation on behalf of its member states, with the goal of reducing toxics (lead, mercury, cadmium and hexavalent chromium) in packaging through education and promoting consistency across states. TPCH is a resource and single point of contact for companies seeking information on toxics in packaging requirements or an exemption. NHPPP staff participates in regular calls and activities that ensure businesses adhere to the requirements of [NH RSA 149-M:32 – 40](#). For example, through the work of TPCH member states, NHPPP was able to identify and initiate removal of a food product package containing elevated levels of lead.

## Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse (IC2)

NHPPP with the NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau is a recent (2024) member of the [IC2](#), which focuses on prevention and safer alternatives for PFAS in products as well as PFAS contamination of drinking water, groundwater and other environmental media. Specific to NHPPP, IC2 is working with member states to develop recordkeeping and reporting functions.

## Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

Through its membership in the [Northeast Waste Management Officials Association \(NEWMOA\)](#), NHPPP participates in an [EPR](#) network of states involved with reviewing the feasibility of promoting EPR for certain products. Among other tasks, the EPR network shares information related to new educational resources, policies, programs, successful legislative efforts and proposed legislation; holds meetings to share information and discuss legislation; and develops publications.

## VII. Conclusion

NHPPP practices benefit New Hampshire's business, industry and residents by emphasizing creative and cost-effective ways to reduce hazardous materials, energy, water and raw material use; protect human health and the environment; and achieve pollution prevention benefits. NHPPP pursues partnerships which extend its reach and expand its technical expertise. Overall, P2 is a proven strategy that drives measurable and cost-effective improvements in business performance and environmental outcomes.



For more information, visit the [New Hampshire Pollution Prevention webpage](#), contact [nhppp@des.nh.gov](mailto:nhppp@des.nh.gov), or call [\(603\) 271-6460](tel:(603)271-6460).