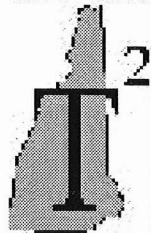


Road Business is a quarterly publication of the:
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The Technology Transfer Center at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) is supported by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT), and UNH. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations presented in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the FHWA, NHDOT, or UNH.

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The Used Oil Grant Program

By Cassie Plourde,
Project Assistant

Some communities have taken advantage of the Department of Environmental Services' (DES) Used Oil Grant Program. The on-going program provides grants to towns, cities, counties and solid waste districts. The grants don't require a match and are given in amounts up to \$2,500.00. A municipality can use the grant to establish an oil collection center or improve an existing one.

The program allows municipalities to meet the requirements of the Oil Remediation & Compliance Bureau (part of DES). It also enables municipalities to serve residents who change their own oil by providing them with a place to safely dispose of waste oil.

According to Thomas Plourde, Road Agent and Master Road Scholar, Mont Vernon had a collection tank used for motor oil that lacked a protective shed. The town applied for the grant, and used the money to build the shed they needed.

The Town of Bow has also used this program. According to Chum Cleverly, Public Works Director and Master Road Scholar, Bow applied for and received a grant for a new collection tank.

Local governments can also use the grant money for:

- Collection tanks and drums
- Spill containment
- Spill kits and sorbents
- Containment test kits
- Used oil fuel burners
- Filter crushers
- Transfer pumps
- Funnels, fill gauges, and other accessories
- Promotional and educational materials

To qualify for the grant, the municipality must promote storing and managing oil safely, recycle all collected oil, and serve local "do it yourself" oil changers. All awards must be used within one year. The municipality must submit an annual report to DES, including an accounting of the money used. In addition to the grant money offered, the municipality is eligible for:

- A \$10,000 fund for the disposal of contaminated oil; (An example would be if brake fluid were to bleed into the oil in the collection tank. This would produce a hazardous waste material. The 10,000 fund would go towards the disposal of this material).
- Customer on-site assistance
- Annual training for solid waste operators

To obtain information and an application contact Wendy Waskin at DES, (888) Take-Oil. Wendy will also assist application preparation.