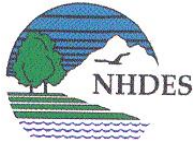


News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DES Signs Partnership Agreement with Breathe New Hampshire

Concord, NH - Official signing and announcement of a partnership agreement between the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) and Breathe New Hampshire took place on Thursday, September 4th, 2008 on board the M/S Mount Washington. The announcement, which recognizes the importance of lung health and raises environmental awareness, came as part of an afternoon "Eager Breathers' Fresh Air Day Cruise" hosted by Breathe New Hampshire. The annual event attracts hundreds of individuals living with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), an umbrella term for chronic bronchitis and/or emphysema.

The partnership agreement emphasizes the direct connection between health and air quality and outlines how both organizations work together to address these important issues. Breathe New Hampshire President Daniel Fortin signed the agreement on behalf of his organization. Commissioner Tom Burack signed on behalf of DES.

After signing the agreement, Commissioner Burack remarked, "DES is proud to enter into this agreement and set a future course of action which includes continued cooperation with Breathe New Hampshire. The impact of air quality on the health of individuals is of utmost importance. People participating in today's cruise know in very real ways the effects that air pollution can have on their day-to-day lives."

Daniel Fortin, representing Breathe New Hampshire, added, "We place great value in this partnership and look forward to an on-going, productive relationship with DES. There are many efforts currently underway that will benefit and improve the lives of those in our state who live with lung disease."

DES has initiated the DES Partners Program to advance the agency's mission of sustaining a high quality of life for all citizens by protecting and restoring the environment and public health in New Hampshire. It is anticipated that the Partners Program will help to raise environmental awareness through a strengthening of the Department's current relationships with non-governmental organizations, trade associations, industry, business and other organizations in New Hampshire, as well as the development of new collaborative relationships.

A copy of the agreement will be posted with this press release at www.des.nh.gov/partnersprogram/index.html or is available upon request. For more information about the agreement or the DES Partners Program, please call Sharon Yergeau at (603) 271-2918. For more information about Breathe New Hampshire, go to www.breathenh.org or call 800-835-8647.

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