

# Our lakes and ponds have a big problem!

Cyanobacteria bloom in Lake Sunapee  
Photo by M. Eliassen

## Let's Be Clear:

1. Water quality in NH lakes, ponds, and streams is in decline, and we should all be very concerned.
2. Runoff carrying contaminants degrades water quality, leading to algal and cyanobacteria blooms.
3. We can each help reverse this trend by choosing actions that protect water quality.
4. Inaction will be devastating to our natural resources and economy.



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## How each of us can help



1. Eliminate or use phosphorus-free fertilizer — don't apply within 100' of water.
2. Use non-toxic pesticides and herbicides.
3. Pick up pet waste.
4. Maintain your septic system.
5. Plant buffers instead of lawns near water.
6. Don't feed waterfowl.
7. Cover bare soil with plants or mulch.
8. Follow state and local tree cutting and construction rules.