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## Fitchburg Bicycling and Pedestrian Draft Plan To Be Unveiled at Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> Open House

The City of Fitchburg will host a Public Open House and Workshop on Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Fitchburg Fire Station #1, 5791 Lacy Road, to present a draft of the City's updated Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Participants should enter the building parking lot off of Mutchler or Osmundsen Roads. The open house/workshop will consist of a short presentation on the draft plan update at 6.00 p.m., followed by various opportunities to provide input and feedback on the draft.



Fitchburg is in the process of updating its Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan to maintain and improve options for biking and walking in the City. A key component of the Plan update is to gather input and feedback from City residents and others who bike and walk in Fitchburg. For more information on the draft plan, please visit: [www.fitchburgbikepedplan.org/](http://www.fitchburgbikepedplan.org/)

## On Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> Learn About Options to Power Your Home or Business with the Sun



Are you thinking about buying a solar electric system for your home or business? Are you interested in solar investment, but can't host one on your rooftop or apartment building? Whether you install an electric solar system on your house or invest in a shared community solar system off site, there are many options for lowering your electric costs and carbon footprint at the same time. Now is a great time to evaluate solar electricity investment since solar electric costs have declined dramatically, and federal tax incentives are available through 2019.

Fitchburg's Resource Conservation Commission will host an interactive solar forum on Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 p.m. at the Fitchburg Library, 5530 Lacy Road, featuring solar experts and local solar providers. Topics will include: solar benefits; community solar investment options; solar electric costs and rebates; financing options; and how to evaluate rooftop solar potential. There will be plenty of Q&A time, so please bring questions. Door prizes and free pizza will be provided. We hope to see you there! For more information, contact Erika Kluetmeier, Fitchburg Sustainability Specialist, at [erika.kluetmeier@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:erika.kluetmeier@fitchburgwi.gov) or 270-4274.

## Refuse & Recycling Do's and Don'ts

A few reminders as you place your refuse or recycling carts curbside on collection day this week. Remember to place your carts on the terrace or at the street's edge, but not in the street. If left in the street, they interfere with traffic, street sweepers, snowplows and, as happened in the recent storm, can be carried away down the street, spreading the contents along the way.

If your refuse or recycling cart are regularly overflowing, consider contacting Pellitteri Waste Systems at 257-4285 to upgrade to a larger refuse and recycling cart. There's a \$15/refuse cart swap fee and Fitchburg will pay the \$15/recycling cart swap fee up to one time per resident. An easy way to confirm what size cart you currently have is to write down the numbers on the right side of the cart. The first two numbers are typically the year the cart was made (e.g. "05" was made in 2005). The last group of 6 numbers tells the size ("300264" is a 35 gallon cart). Numbers starting in "6" indicate a 65 gallon cart and numbers starting in "9" indicate a 95 gallon cart.



By city ordinance, refuse and recycling carts cannot be placed at the street more than 24 hours prior to the scheduled pick-up and need to be removed within 12 hours after the pick-up. Also, the carts cannot be stored in front of a house or along its side yard.

To recycle **small plastic items**, like bottle caps, either place them inside a plastic container or, in the case of a plastic bottle, put them back on the bottle. They are too small to make it thru the recycling process on their own and, if left loose, will likely just contaminate the glass recyclables.

For more information, please visit our website at: [www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste](http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste) or contact Fitchburg Public Works at 270-4260.

## Put Your Fall Leaves to Work by Reusing Them in Your Yard

The colorful autumn season is upon us, and with it, the fall leaf and lawn cleanup. Before hauling your yard waste out to the curb for collection, consider the natural value of your fallen leaves. Fallen leaves and other yard waste are a valuable source of nutrients for your lawn or gardens since they are high in phosphorus, an important nutrient for plant growth and a harmful pollutant that fuels algae and weed growth in our lakes and streams.

You can easily put these nutrients to good use and prevent them from entering storm drains by mulching or composting leaves.

Mulching your lawn involves periodically mowing small amounts of leaves and yard waste, which reduces the need for raking and provides a good source of nutrients to maintain a green and healthy lawn.

Shredding the leaves with a mulching mower greatly reduces the volume of leaves and speeds up their decomposition. Raked leaves also make excellent mulch. They can be used to protect roses and other plants over the winter. Adding leaves to your vegetable or flower garden beds in the fall is a great source of nutrients and a soil conditioner. Any leaves that do not break down in winter can be tilled into spring soils.

Fall leaves can also be recycled at home by composting. Composting is a simple process that requires little time or effort on the part of homeowners. Compost provides essential nutrients for healthy plant growth. It improves soil structure and helps hold in moisture so you can save money by reducing the amount of water



Leaf and Small Yardwaste Mulching

1. Take leaves and yard waste from your beds and lawn and create pile of trimmings.
2. Set mowing height to maximum, and then slowly go back and forth a few times.
3. Rake into mulch for your lawn, flower beds, garden or for your compost pile.



Composting Steps

1. Purchase a compost bin at the Fall Compost bin and Rain barrel sale at the Fitchburg recycling drop off site.
2. Select a location for your compost bin.
3. Add good composting materials, such as food waste, leaf and small yard waste, and a small portion of soil.
4. Use your compost for your plants, fertilizers, lawn tops and around trees.

and commercial fertilizers you use on your lawn and garden. Leaves are rich in carbon and useful for balancing nitrogen-rich materials like fresh grass clippings and food waste when you're composting. Stocking your compost piles with leaves in the fall will give you plenty of carbon rich material to balance out your grass clippings in the spring.

For information on other Leaf and Lawn Cleanup options and techniques, visit [www.myfairlakes.com](http://www.myfairlakes.com) or [www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste](http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste). You can also stop by Fitchburg City Hall to view the "Leaf and Lawn Cleanup" display in the main hallway. Free "Love your Lakes, Don't Leaf Them" yard

signs, and beverage coasters are available in the main lobby for you to use and show your love of Fitchburg's creeks and the lakes and rivers they drain to.

## Mark Your Calendars for Fall Curbside Collection Weeks of Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> and Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>

If you are setting your leaves and other yardwaste out for curbside collection this fall, there are three guidelines to be aware of.

### 1. Keep the leaves contained in a bag or container on the terrace of your yard, not in the street.

Fitchburg prohibits raking leaves into the street since the leaf can clog storm sewers, contribute to water pollution in local lakes and streams, and necessitate more frequent street cleaning. Leaves, grass clippings, plastic bags, and trash in streets can clog storm sewer pipes, resulting in street flooding that can damage property and make street driving hazardous. Yardwaste debris and contaminants in the sewers also harms downstream environments. Nutrients, such as phosphorus and nitrogen found in yard waste encourage the growth of aquatic plants and algae, contributing to the unappealing smell and color of local ponds, lakes and streams while negatively affecting aquatic habitats. Leaves and other nutrients in the street this fall result in green stormwater ponds, lakes and streams next summer.

### 2. Know the collection dates of the curbside collection so that your bagged/containerized yardwaste is at the curb for as short a time as possible.

This year's fall yard waste collection will take place the weeks of October 24<sup>th</sup> and November 14<sup>th</sup> for residents of single family homes and apartments with up to four-units who receive City refuse & recycling collection. Pellitteri Waste Systems will begin collection on Monday of each week, and may continue through Saturday (or later depending on weather constraints). Your yard waste will not necessarily be collected on the same day as your pickup for refuse and recycling. *Please have yardwaste at the curb by 6:30 a.m. on the Monday that collection begins, regardless of which day your refuse and recycling is collected.*

### 3. Know your yardwaste collection container options.

Place leaves and yard waste at the curb (not in the street) in reusable containers or in bags no larger than 50 gallons or 50 lbs. each. The non-reusable black plastic bags are to be left untied with a container for Pellitteri staff to place them in. Loose leaves will not be collected. Although the fall cleanup is intended primarily for leaves, other non-woody yard waste will be collected, including grass clippings, weeds, flowers, garden debris, etc. A photo is included below depicting the most sustainable options (#1) to least sustainable (#4), but still acceptable, curbside yard waste set out options:

1 – No yard waste set out - resident mulches into the lawn or composts on site, reduces labor and transportation costs and emissions

2a – Reused plastic cart or container, reusable hundreds of times

2b – Reusable ~50 gallon polybag w/ drawstring (~\$3-6/polybag)

2c – Reusable ~50 gallon polybag w/ handles and drawcord (~\$8-10/polybag)

3a – Compostable ~30 gallon paper bag w/ folded top (~\$0.50-1/bag)

3b – Compostable ~50 gallon plastic-like bag (\$0.60-1.20/bag)

3c – Compostable ~30 gallon plastic-like bag (\$0.60-1.20/bag)

4 – Non-recyclable ~30 gallon black plastic bag – MUST be left untied\* (\$0.10-0.50/bag)

## Allowable Options For Curbside Placement of Yard Waste



1. No Yard Waste    2. Reusable Containers /Bags    3. Compostable    4. Thin Plastic Bags

Most Sustainable ←————— Least Sustainable

\*Please note that Non-compostable bags must not be tied to allow for emptying yard waste without ripping the bag open. Residents are encouraged to leave a container (with note: “Please place bags in here after emptying.”) for Pellitteri to place the bags in after they are emptied so the bags can be reused again and not sent to the landfill.

Reusable Yardwaste Polybags (2b in photos) are available at Fitchburg City Hall (for \$2/polybag) during regular hours from 7:30am-4:30pm Monday-Friday, while supplies last. One polybag

is *\*free\** each year to residents who pay the “Refuse & Recycling” special charge on their property tax bill.

All residents may also take yard waste to the Fitchburg Recycling Drop Off Site, located at 2373 S. Fish Hatchery Rd. The site is open every day during daylight hours. Please visit [www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste](http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste) for full guidelines or contact Public Works at [publicworks@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:publicworks@fitchburgwi.gov) or 270-4260 if you have any questions.

## Fitchburg’s Fall Paper Shred Day Set for October 29<sup>th</sup>



The City of Fitchburg, Pellitteri Waste Systems and Oak Bank are sponsoring a paper shredding event on Saturday, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> from 8-11 a.m. Please join us in the parking lot behind Oak Bank, 5951 McKee Rd, at the corner of Marketplace & Executive Drives. This event provides **free** shredding and recycling to destroy **no more than five boxes** of confidential paper documents.

For more information, visit our web page at: [www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste](http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste) and learn about other recycling options in Fitchburg’s 2016 Recycling Guide. Hard copies are available in the lobby of Fitchburg City Hall and at the Recycling Drop-Off Site.

## Community Calendar

- [Harvest Moon Festival](#), Friends of Capital Springs Recreational Area, Oct. 7, 2016

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Please contact [Erika Kluetmeier](mailto:erika.kluetmeier@fitchburgwi.gov), Sustainability Specialist, at [erika.kluetmeier@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:erika.kluetmeier@fitchburgwi.gov) or 270-4274 if you have any questions, comments, and/or suggestions for future Green E-News topics.