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Save the Pipes, Don't Flush Wipes

From the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Wipes clog pipes. Wipes may be labeled "flushable," but they don't degrade in the system. Flushing them is like flushing a handkerchief or other item made of cloth.

Our sewer systems and treatment plants were not designed to handle wipes. They gum up the system, clog pipes and pumps, and cost taxpayers and residents additional money in maintenance costs. Many homeowners have also experienced plumbing problems due to wipes being flushed, so there may be expensive maintenance costs at home as well. If you must use wipes, put them in the trash, not the toilet!



Watch the video, *Wipes Clog Pipes*: <https://youtu.be/zE9Vqddrx08>

Focus on Energy's Top 5 for Winter

From Focus on Energy, <https://www.focusonenergy.com/newsroom/focus-energys-top-5-winter>

It is easy to improve the comfort of your home during the long winter months while also saving money on your energy bills for years to come. All you have to do is take advantage of the financial incentives and technical support offered through Focus on Energy, Wisconsin's statewide energy-efficiency program funded by your utility provider.

Top 5 tips to save you money and keep your home cozy this winter:

1. Get a Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® Assessment
2. Install Low-E Storm Windows
3. Get a smart thermostat
4. Check or replace your furnace/boiler
5. Get a free Simple Energy Efficiency Pack



Winter Biking Tips

Dress properly, be visible, relax and have fun! Read more about winter biking from the [Wisconsin Bike Fed](#) and the [City of Madison](#) website.

1. Be visible

Wear bright colors during the day, use lights at night, and assume motorists do not see you or other bicyclists on the road. Wisconsin state law requires at least a white front light and a red rear reflector when riding at night. Choose a light that is bright enough to light your way. An additional light pointed down at the path can help spot black ice or ruts to avoid. Reflective accessories increase visibility when riding in snowy, low visibility conditions.

2. Dress properly to stay warm

Living in Wisconsin, you probably already have the layers to keep you warm. Remember, if you are warm when you start you will be sweaty on the ride. Keep your hands and feet warm with windproof mittens and winter boots. In a pinch, use plastic bags over your socks inside your shoes keep feet dry.

3. Learn to ride in the snow, and don't panic

Ride confidently whether you ride a mountain bike or road bike. If you ride like you're going to fall, you will fall. Keep a wide stance on the handlebars for stability. A [blogpost from Saris](#) says, *"Ride at the fastest pace you are comfortable with and don't be afraid of riding through mini snow drifts. You'll be surprised how riding confidently will get you through some sketchy spots. Downhill riding can be some of the most nerve wrecking. Put a foot down and coast while fluttering your brakes just a little. Too much braking and you may fishtail. Not enough and you may lose your line and wipe out. Experiment with what works best for you."* Knobby tires give a little extra traction, and studded tires make it easier to ride on ice and snow. You will fishtail or lose your balance at some point. Usually you can overcome it if you keep your cool.

4. Choose your route

Learn which multi-use paths and roads are plowed first and which remain snow-covered. Traffic helps clear the streets from ice and snow. Try to find the route that has enough traffic to clear the snow, but not so much traffic that you feel uncomfortable riding in the path cleared by the cars.

5. Find a winter biking mentor

Many people who ride in the winter are happy to be out on their bike and will answer questions. Ask local bike groups, clubs, or shops about year-round riding and organized rides. Convince a friend or co-worker to ride with you one day to try it out. Plan extra time or practice your route on a day off to find out how long it takes to ride in the winter.



WINTER RIDING TIPS

Sustainable Fitchburg Map

<http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/142/Green-Fitchburg>

Juliana v U.S. – Climate Lawsuit

From Our Children's Trust

<https://www.ourchildrenstrust.org/us/federal-lawsuit/>

Youth filed their [constitutional climate lawsuit](#), called *Juliana v. U.S.*, against the U.S. government in the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon in 2015. [Earth Guardians](#) is also an organizational plaintiff in the case.

Their complaint asserts that, through the government's affirmative actions that cause climate change, it has violated the youngest generation's constitutional rights to life, liberty, and property, as well as failed to protect essential public trust resources.

Learn more on *Let the Youth Be Heard*, a blog where "young climate warriors can share their stories," <https://www.youthgov.org/blog/>

No Ordinary Lawsuit

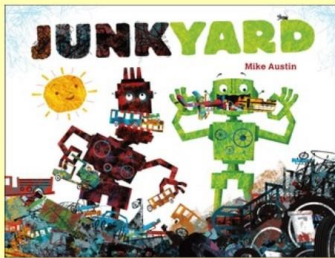
podcast by Our Children's Trust

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/no-ordinary-lawsuit/id1438467031>



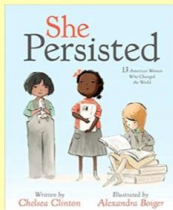
Great Titles for Kids

Book Recommendations from Kelly Witt, youth services librarian



Junkyard by Mike Austin

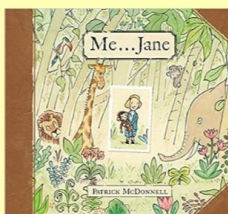
This is a fabulous read aloud about two junkyard robots, which will inspire families to engage in clean-up projects both big and small.



She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World

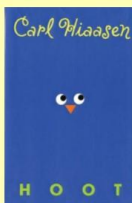
By Chelsea Clinton

Introducing thirteen brave women who never took no for an answer. These tiny feminists, mini activists and little kids always, without fail, persisted.



Me . . . Jane By Patrick McDonnell

Holding her stuffed toy chimpanzee, young Jane Goodall observes nature, reads Tarzan books, and dreams of living in Africa and helping animals.



Hoot By Carl Hiaasen

An ecological mystery set in a middle school which Roy, a new kid at school, sets out to save some burrowing owls from developers.

Teen told climate negotiators they aren't mature enough

<https://www.cnn.com/2018/12/16/world/greta-thunberg-cop24/index.html>



Greta Thunberg, a 15-year-old student from Sweden, captured the attention of the world recently when she shamed climate change negotiators at a United Nations climate summit in Poland.

"You are not mature enough to tell it like is," she said at the COP24 summit, which ended late Saturday night after two weeks of tense negotiations. "Even that burden you leave to us children. But I don't care about being popular. I care about climate justice and the living planet."

Watch Greta Thunberg's speech on youtube: <https://youtu.be/VFkQSGyeCWg>



Save the Date!

WATER IN TWO PARTS: Waubesa Wetlands and Salt Reduction

Thursday, February 7th, 2019 at 6:00-7:30 pm
Fitchburg Public Library
Pizza and refreshments at 5:45 pm

Share the News

*Tell your friends to subscribe to Green Fitchburg on the city website
<http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/list.aspx> > Green Fitchburg*

- a. Visit Fitchburg's "Notify Me[®]" web page:
<http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/list.aspx>
- b. Type your email address in the box and select "Sign In"
- c. To receive text messages enter your phone number and select "Save"
- d. Click  (to subscribe/unsubscribe to emails) and/or  (to subscribe/unsubscribe) next to the lists to which you wish to subscribe / unsubscribe (e.g. "Green Fitchburg" is the mailing list for environmentally friendly suggestions or events)

Please send questions and comments to Ellen Geisler, Sustainability Specialist, at ellen.geisler@fitchburgwi.gov or 270-4274

