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Fitchburg Sustainability Plan: Survey and Planning Team Application

<https://palebluedot.llc/fitchburg-sustainability>

Updated from June/July: Fitchburg is embarking on an exciting journey towards a more sustainable future by commencing a comprehensive sustainability plan process. This process will encompass various key areas of the city's influence, including energy efficiency, waste management, transportation, land use, water conservation, and more. By addressing these various issue areas, Fitchburg aims to reduce its ecological footprint, promote renewable energy adoption, enhance alternate transportation, encourage sustainable development practices, and safeguard its natural resources.



The city's commitment to sustainability not only benefits the environment but also offers social and economic advantages. By implementing sustainable practices, Fitchburg will look to foster a healthier and more resilient community, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and create green job opportunities. The sustainability plan may also help attract businesses and investors who prioritize environmentally and socially conscious practices, boosting the local economy and enhancing the city's reputation as a sustainable and desirable place to live, work, and visit.

We want to hear from you!

We have launched an online survey to collect input from residents and businesses. This survey is designed to help us identify perceptions, needs, opportunities, priorities, and issues for the City to address in the Sustainability Plan. Please share the survey with your neighbors, friends, family, coworkers, and any other networks you think would be interested in participating! [Survey link here.](#)



To help us better understand the comments we receive, we will ask for you to identify if you live and/or work in the City of Fitchburg; however, all are welcome to take this survey wherever you live and work.

Keep your participation going!

As part of the Sustainability Plan development process, we will also be working with a Planning Team made up of volunteers from across the Fitchburg community. If you are interested in helping to guide this process and are able to put in a few hours per month for the next 7-8 months, please [apply to be part of this team here!](#)



Stormwater Week 2023

From Josie Jauquet, Fitchburg Public Works Intern

From August 5th through 13th, Madison Area Municipal Stormwater Partnership (MAMSWaP) is hosting educational events about stormwater in Wisconsin- where it comes from, where it goes, and how residents can help improve the water quality in Dane county and in their own communities. In addition to this, there will be discounts on rain barrels and downspout gardens.



In preparation for Stormwater Week, there is a Storm Drain Mural scavenger hunt hosted by the City of Madison. If residents take a selfie on the sidewalk by a storm drain mural, they have the opportunity to win prizes. If more selfies at different murals are sent in, there is a higher chance of winning! This event will run from July 24th through August 6th at 4 PM. The winner will be announced at the end of Stormwater Week! Visit <https://www.cityofmadison.com/news/smile-summer-at-the-storm-drains-2023-kicks-off> for more details about the scavenger hunt. There are three storm drain murals in Fitchburg- can you find them all?

Each weekday of Stormwater Week will focus on a different aspect of stormwater infrastructure. Day one, for example, is about the basics of stormwater. It provides information on the hydrologic cycle and how the changing landscape (mainly due to developments and urbanization) has influenced water quality and flooding.

Throughout the week, there will also be free webinars available to those hungry for more information about stormwater. The first webinar will be on Tuesday, August 8th from 12-1 PM. This webinar will be about rain collection. The second webinar will be on Thursday, August 10th from 12-1 PM, and it will be about keeping streets leaf-free. To attend these webinars, please register online ahead of time.

To learn more about Stormwater Week, please visit www.fitchburgwi.gov/2622/Homeowner-Opportunities or <https://ripple-effects.com/WI-stormwater-week>. To register for the webinar on August 8th, visit <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ejs6an18d6372391&oseq=&c=&ch=>. To register for the webinar on August 10th, visit <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ejs6an2m14d9eff2&oseq=&c=&ch=>.

Fitchburg Composting Survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GCT3DL3>

The Fitchburg Public Works Department is looking to gauge public interest in creating a community composting program. You can find information on what resources are already available to Fitchburg residents, as well as information on composting at home, on the City's "[Organic Waste and Composting](#)" page; but some residents have expressed interest in the City creating a more formal local composting program, and this survey will help us to understand the level of community interest in that.



The survey will remain open through October, but don't hesitate; [fill it out today!](#)

In the meantime, check out some home composting suggestions from these websites:

- [US Environmental Protection Agency: Composting at Home](#)
- [NPR: How to Compost At Home](#)
- [Planet Natural: Composting 101, Tips & Tricks](#)
- [EarthEasy: 10 Pro Composting Tips From Expert Gardeners](#)
- [Homesteading Where You Are: 15 Composting Tips For Beginners](#)
- [Gardening Know-How: The Ultimate Guide to Composting For Beginners](#)

Free Bikes 4 Kidz “Slow Roll” Ride

<https://fb4kmadison.org/pedaling-news/announcing-our-first-annual-slow-roll-on-august-5th-2023/>

The Madison chapter of Free Bikes 4 Kidz will host its first annual bike ride on Saturday, August 5. This ride, the “South Side Slow Roll,” will kick off at the organization’s workshop at 354 Coyier Lane (just east of the Southdale neighborhood) and lead riders on a 3-mile ride around bike trails and neighborhoods in south Madison. This ride is especially geared (no pun intended!) towards those who have never participated in a group ride before, so it will be beginner-friendly and is a great opportunity to try joining along a guided ride for the first time!



Come to 354 Coyier Lane on August 5 to join in the fun, with the ride beginning at 3:00pm and Wheels for Winners showing up to provide free bike repair services and tune-ups ahead of the ride at 2:00pm.

The ride is free but registration is required, and all registered riders will receive a free food voucher at the start of the ride, to redeem at one of four food carts at the after-party.

Bike Fitchburg, Dane County Parks, and Olbrich Botanical Gardens are also providing free gear, trail passes, and “seed bombs” for participants, and numerous other sponsors are providing support. [Check out the website](#) and register today!

Cycle September Returns

https://www.lovetoride.net/usa/pages/info?locale=en-US&page=1_challenge

Get your Summer biking gear switched over for Fall and sign up to participate in “Love to Ride’s” Cycle September again! This 30-day celebration of cycling encourages people to get

outside and be active as the seasons change into cooler weather, promotes an emissions-free method of transportation and recreation, and offers individuals chances to win prizes up to a \$4,000 vacation.

Sign up as an individual, or make a team with your friends, family, or coworkers, and enjoy two of the greatest things Dane County has to offer – top-notch bicycling and gorgeous Autumn weather.



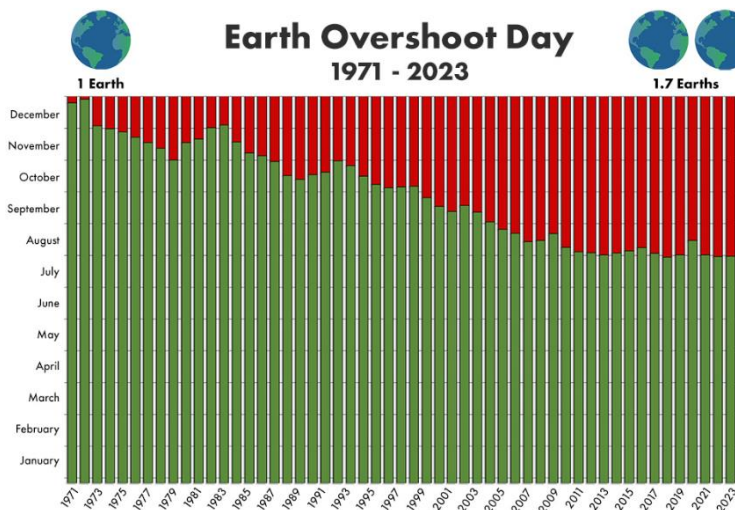
CYCLE SEPTEMBER



Earth Overshoot Day Was August 2

Text from <https://www.overshootday.org/>

Earth Overshoot Day marks the date when humanity’s demand for ecological resources and services in a given year exceeds what Earth can regenerate in that year. In 2023, Earth Overshoot Day lands on August 2. We maintain this deficit by liquidating stocks of ecological resources and accumulating waste, primarily carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Earth Overshoot Day is hosted and calculated by [Global Footprint Network](https://www.footprintnetwork.org/), an international research organization that provides decision-makers with a menu of tools to help the human economy operate within Earth’s ecological limits.



Calculate your own personal ecological footprint and learn about ways you can reduce your resource use at the [Global Footprint Network's website](https://www.footprintnetwork.org/).



Source: National Footprint and Biocapacity Accounts 2023 Edition
data.footprintnetwork.org

Keeping Our Water Clean

<https://www.wisaltwise.com/Winter-Salt-Certification>

Fitchburg encourages residents and businesses to take many steps to protect the cleanliness of our local waterways, from the Police Department-hosted Med Drop, to adopting and following a municipal Stormwater Management Plan, to partnering with the Wisconsin DNR's Green Tier Clear Waters Initiative. Two of these measures that will become more relevant as Autumn and Winter approach are "leaf-free streets" and working to be a "Salt-Wise" community.

Leaf-Free Streets

Did you know leaves that collect on our streets every fall can harm our natural waterbodies? More than 50% of the annual amount of phosphorus in urban stormwater can come from leaves in the street. Too much phosphorus can lead to toxic algae blooms, low oxygen levels and green murky waters, none of which are good for animals living in the water or those of us who use it for recreation. Timely removal of street leaf litter prior to a rain event can reduce the amount of phosphorus in urban stormwater by 80% compared to no leaf removal.

You can help! Join us in keeping streets leaf-free before it rains this fall. To encourage others to keep leaves out of the street, request a free yard sign by sending an email to Ben.Schulte@fitchburgwi.gov with the subject, "Leaf-Free Streets Sign Request." Thank you for joining this movement to protect our waters!

SaltWise Partnership

Fitchburg is a member of the Wisconsin SaltWise Partnership, a coalition of organizations around the state working to reduce salt runoff into lakes and streams. Salt-Wise certification is available to anyone involved in winter maintenance, whether public or private. If you'd like to pursue certification, you can learn more at <https://www.wisaltwise.com/Winter-Salt-Certification>, and if you hire a professional to help you with winter maintenance, you can ask if they're certified (or find them in [this online listing](#)) or encourage them to take that step. The snows of winter are still months away, but 2023 in-person and online training courses run [August through November](#), so it's good to get ahead of that cold weather and learn about appropriate salt application now!

Fall 2023 Shred/Recycling Event is September 16

Mark your calendars. The next City of Fitchburg Recycling Day Event (including shredding and recycling of confidential paperwork, as well as electronics recycling) will take place on Saturday, September 16 from 8:00AM-11:00AM. *Check out the City's Recycling-Day page ([linked here](#)) for information on the event, any possible changes, and updates as the date approaches.* If you're looking to get rid of items in the meantime, please consider the options below:

Confidential Paper Recycling

- If you have access to a paper shredder, please shred your confidential paper items, place them in a clear plastic bag, and put the bag into your curbside recycling cart. These will be removed by hand once they reach the sorting facility and will be recycled. Please note that if you do not place paper into a clear plastic bag, it won't be possible to separate the material for recycling. (For more information on how the recycling process works at the local Pellitteri Material Recovery Facility, please check out this link! <https://youtu.be/Vwch1gwUgQk>)
- If you do not have access to a paper shredder, Pellitteri offers on-site paper shredding for a fee. Please call Pellitteri at 605-257-4285 for more information.
- If the paperwork that you are trying to recycle is not confidential (for example, magazines, junk mail, etc), please place this directly into your recycling cart.



Electronics Recycling

- Please take your electronics recyclables to Resource Solutions' Madison location. You can drop off without appointment, anytime during their regular business hours: Monday-Friday: 8:00a-4:00p Saturday: 8:00 – Noon. This facility is located at 5493 Express Cir, Madison. Please note, there is a fee to recycle many electronic items (also true for Fitchburg's Recycling Day Event as well). <http://recyclethatstuff.com/>

We look forward to seeing you in September!

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 contact Phil Grupe, Sustainability Specialist, at phil.grupe@fitchburgwi.gov or (608) 270-4259, if you have any questions, comments, and/or suggestions for future Green E-News topics.

