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## Fitchburg Sustainability Plan: Survey Complete

<https://www.fitchburgwi.gov/2877/Fitchburg-Sustainability-Plan>

The City of Fitchburg is well into the process of building its first Sustainability Plan, working with Pale Blue Dot LLC on the steps needed to make this longstanding goal a reality.



We are looking to get as much input as possible on the current state of sustainability in Fitchburg, as well as where we have room for growth and what the community's/city's greatest needs are. Thanks to everybody who completed the survey, the results of which are now available at <https://palebluedot.llc/fitchburg-sustainability>. We are not done engaging the community, working with a Planning Team through monthly meetings and looking at other opportunities to get feedback and share where we are in the process. Feel free to reach out to the City's Sustainability Specialist ([phil.grupe@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:phil.grupe@fitchburgwi.gov)) if you have questions or would like to offer input, and look for public meetings that will be held periodically to provide information and a chance for feedback on the process.



## Earth Month Activities in Fitchburg

Looking to get involved in some activities this Earth Month? Check out the list below or look for more local activities throughout the city and county!

- **Shred/Recycling Event** – Fitchburg is hosting its semiannual electronics recycling and confidential paper shredding event on Saturday, April 13. If you're a resident of Fitchburg, you can take advantage of this opportunity to clear out confidential papers and old electronics, between 8am and 11am on 4/13! See details [on the City website](#). *Note that the Police Department no longer hosts a med-drop box, so med drop will not be part of this year's Shred/Recycling Event.*
- **Waterway Cleanups** – The annual Fitchburg Waterway Cleanups are scheduled for Saturday 6, from 9am-11am, at several locations around Fitchburg. Go to the City's [Waterway Cleanups webpage](#) for details and to sign up to help make Fitchburg a little cleaner.
- **Arbor Day Tree and Shrub Plantings** – The last Friday in April is Arbor Day, which this year is April 26. Join Mayor Arata-Fratta and the Parks Department at 10:30 that morning for a tree planting and raising a flag to celebrate Fitchburg's designation as a *Tree City of the World*. Other events include a tree planting and invasive shrub clearing on Saturday, April 12 at McGaw Park (meet at the lacrosse field parking lot), from 1-3pm with the Sierra Club; and a tree and shrub planting on Saturday, April 27 at Rosecommons Park from 10am-noon. Reach out with questions to Fitchburg's Urban Forester/Naturalist Anna Healy at [anna.healy@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:anna.healy@fitchburgwi.gov).
- **Earth Month at EcoChallenge.org** – The website EcoChallenge.org hosts team and individual challenges throughout the year, and they're once again hosting a special challenge for Earth Month. Sign up at <https://earthmonth.ecochallenge.org/> for a challenge that pushes you to take actions in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, a set of 17 goals created in 2015 with the ultimate goal of creating a better and more sustainable future for all.

## BCycle is Back!

<https://madison.bcycle.com/>

Fitchburg's BCycle bike-share network is about to reopen for its second year. On March 15, e-bikes will be distributed among the stations around Fitchburg, Madison, and neighboring cities. This year Fitchburg will also expand on its Phase II implementation of BCycle, adding another 5-10 stations to reach about 20 total stations and 100 docks in Fitchburg. If you rode some of the BCycle bikes last year, we look forward to seeing you out there again; if you haven't tried

them yet, consider giving them a chance in 2024. The late winter has been warm, and spring and summer should offer plenty of good cycling weather as well!

## Friends of the UW Arboretum Native Plant Sale

<https://arboretum.wisc.edu/get-involved/friends/native-plant-sale/>

*Since 1990, the Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale in early May has provided local gardeners with a reliable source for native plants and expert guidance. All species offered at the sale are native to Wisconsin and, once established, require minimal care. No plants are dug from the wild. All are grown in commercial nurseries that follow best practices for preventing spread of disease and pests such as the jumping worm.*



*The plant sale is open to all. Proceeds from the Native Plant Sale help FOA support the Arboretum's work and mission.*

### **ONLINE PLANT SALE: JANUARY 1–MARCH 31, 2024**

*A selection of trees, shrubs, garden mixes, and half and full flats of select species can be ordered at [foamadison.org](http://foamadison.org) from January 1 through March 31, 2024, with pickup the week of May 13. The online sale is open to anyone. By ordering online, you can get popular plants in larger quantities, garden mixes, and your choice of trees and shrubs.*

*Trees and shrubs will only be available during the online sale, for pickup by customers in Oregon, Wisconsin.*

### **ON-SITE PLANT SALE: MAY 18, 2024, 10 A.M.–2 P.M.**

*In the large tents on the lawn near the Visitor Center, more than 200 species of native grasses, woodland, prairie, and savanna plants to purchase, while supplies last. Trees and shrubs will only be available through the online sale.*

See the [2023 tent sale plant list](#) for an idea of what may be offered at the 2024 sale.

## Plant Dane Native Plants Sale Ends Soon

<https://www.ripple-effects.com/plant-dane>

*Dane County and the Madison Area Municipal Stormwater Partnership (MAMSWaP) are now accepting plant orders for their 20th annual Plant Dane Native Plant Sale. Starting a native garden, no matter how small, can be a beautiful focal point to your landscape that is not only*

*fun to plant, but fun to observe through the seasons. The Plant Dane Native Plant Program gives local groups, municipalities, and residents in Dane County an opportunity to order native plants for a fraction of the normal retail cost.*

*“Starting a native plant garden is a great way for Dane County residents to do their part in keeping our waterways and local wildlife habitat healthy,” said County Executive Joe Parisi. “We encourage everyone to make the most of this opportunity to add native plants to their outdoor spaces and benefit our environment.”*

*Native plants have a lot of hidden benefits. They provide food and habitat for local wildlife and help rainwater soak into the ground through their deep root systems—working to protect our lakes, rivers and streams from polluted stormwater runoff. Consider converting some of your turf grass or pavement into a native garden, downspout garden, or rain garden this spring and have a Ripple Effect on our waters!*

*Customers can choose from more than 50 native plant species and pre-selected garden kits including: pollinator, downspout, and rain garden kits. Donations to purchase native plants for specific community and school projects can also be made through the Plant Dane order system. Plants are only \$11.50/4-pack with a minimum order of 16 plants. Plant orders will be accepted through March 19th (or while supplies last, with up to 35,000 plants sold). Order early! For more information or to place an order visit [www.ripple-effects.com/plant-dane](http://www.ripple-effects.com/plant-dane).*

## What Size Is Your Footprint?

<https://www.footprintcalculator.org/>

The concept of an environmental “footprint” has been around for several decades now, and online tools allow you to calculate everything from your personal water, carbon, or ecological footprint, to that of your home or even your business. While calculations vary from one specific calculator to the next, and different tools may elicit very different feelings when you see your results, the common theme across all these calculators is estimating our impact on the earth and looking for changes we can make—either individually or as communities—to reduce our demand for resources.



Central to the idea of an ecological footprint, is the understanding that the Earth’s resources are not infinite, and a human population nearly 8 billion strong (and still growing) has placed a tremendous strain on those resources, a strain likely to increase as we seek to lift up impoverished communities so that everyone’s basic needs are met and services made more accessible. By calculating your footprint, you can gain an idea of how many planets it would take for all people to live the way you do, or of how much greater (or less) is your demand for resources than the average person.

This Earth Month is a great time to either explore a footprint calculator for the first time, or to revisit one and see how your results compare to previous exercises. Most of us have multiple ways (some easier, some harder) we can reduce our impact on the Earth, and these calculators are a great way to explore those opportunities. Click any logo below to start!

### Carbon Footprint Calculators:



CoolClimate Network  
Smart Tools for a Cooler Planet



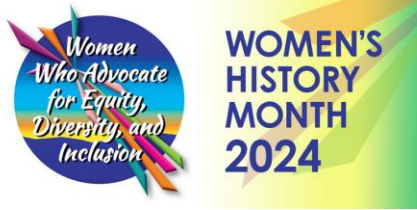
### Water Footprint Calculators:



### Ecological Footprint Calculator:



## March-April Observances



MARCH 14, 2024



MARCH 21, 2024



April 26, 2024

## Upcoming Events

### **Spring Waterway Cleanups**

**Saturday, April 6, 9:00am – 11:00am**

**<https://www.fitchburgwi.gov/2634/Waterway-Cleanups>**

### **Spring Electronics Recycling and Confidential Paper Shredding Event**

**Saturday, April 13, 8:00am – 11:00am**

**<https://www.fitchburgwi.gov/2717/Recycling-Day-Event>**

### **Other Local Events**

**UW Clean Energy Community Initiative:** **<https://ceci.wisc.edu/events/category/ceci-seminar-series/>**

**Upper Sugar River Watershed Association:**  
**[https://uppersugar.org/Calendar\\_of\\_Events](https://uppersugar.org/Calendar_of_Events)**



**Dane County Land & Water Resources Department:**  
**<https://lwr.d.countyofdane.com/Events?id=12>**

**Rock River Coalition:** **<https://rockrivercoalition.org/events/month/>**

**UW Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies:**  
**<https://nelson.wisc.edu/environmental-events/>**

### 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](mailto:phil.grupe@fitchburgwi.gov) or (608) 270-4259, if you have any questions, comments, and/or suggestions for future Green E-News topics.

