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Fitchburg Draft Sustainability Plan Still Open for Comment

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

Phase 2 of Fitchburg’s Sustainability Plan, completed in May, is still available for public review online at <https://palebluedot.llc/fitchburg-sustainability>, through the end of August.



Thanks to everybody who completed the survey or otherwise has participated in the process so far! Now please take a chance to review the [Draft Sustainability Plan](#), and provide feedback on individual topic areas or the plan as a whole, using forms on each section as you click through them.

Fitchburg hosted a public presentation and discussion on August 1, and the FACTv-recorded video of that meeting is available on Fitchburg’s Sustainability Plan landing page, or via the video thumbnail linked below. As always, you can also reach out to the City’s Sustainability Specialist (phil.grupe@fitchburgwi.gov) if you have questions or would like to offer additional input, and look for

future City meetings or public sessions where the Final plan will be presented and discussed.

City of Fitchburg

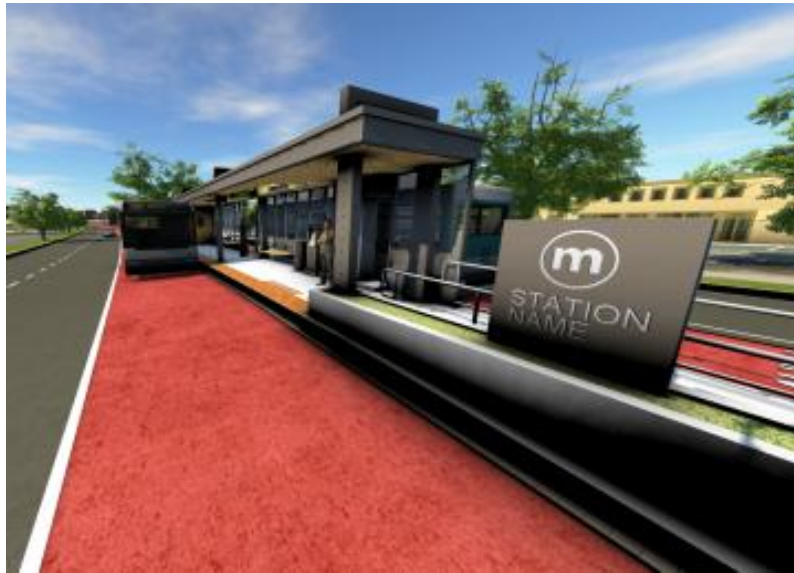
Draft 2024 Sustainability Plan Overview

August 1, 2024



Bus Rapid Transit – Fitchburg Route Plan Approved

The Madison Metro Bus Rapid Transit project has been years in the making, and bus routes for the BRT are expected to begin running later this year, starting with the initial East-West route that will connect Junction Road to East Springs Drive. Route B will be a 15-mile North-South line that extends from McKee Rd in Fitchburg up to Kennedy Heights in north Madison. The Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for Route B was approved by the City of Madison on June 4, laying out the community's preferred route to best meet its needs and completing the next step for federal grant funding that will help to make this route a reality.



Fitchburg Transportation Engineer Ross Kahler and Madison Department of Transportation Planner Liz Callin led a public meeting on April 29 discussing BRT in Fitchburg, which you can view at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ikLDIq9VRo>.

The LPA for Madison's Bus Rapid Transit Route B is online at [this link](#). The LPA lays out the particulars of this route currently being planned, including station locations, bus frequency, accessibility, and expected changes to pedestrian & bicycle facilities as well as vehicular traffic.

Focus on Energy Home Energy Rebates

<https://focusonenergy.com/home-energy-rebates>

Focus on Energy is Wisconsin's statewide energy efficiency rebate program, and as one of the nation's longest-running energy efficiency programs, it has helped the state's residents and businesses save nearly \$250 million since its inception in 2001. Now, thanks to federal

incentives made available through the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act’s passage, the Focus on Energy program has announced two new/redesigned programs this year.

The new Home Efficiency Rebates ([HOMES](#)) program offers incentives to single-family and multifamily owners who make improvements to their building’s energy efficiency performance, through such measures as insulation upgrades, sealing leaks in windows and building seams, and equipment upgrades. This program is available now!

The Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates program ([HEAR](#)) is expected to launch soon, using electrification to decrease fossil fuel emissions as our electrical grid increasingly relies on renewable energy technologies. This program will provide substantial rebates to low- and moderate-income households that make electrical upgrades to their homes in place of natural gas appliances such as water heaters, space heating, clothes dryers, and cooktops. See the linked website for details on qualifying income levels and eligible projects.

Focus on Energy continues to offer numerous other rebates and credits to homeowners and businesses within participating utility territories (this includes customers of both MG&E and Alliant Energy). Find information on those programs at <https://focusonenergy.com/>.

Climate Accomplishments in Dane County

<https://daneclimateaction.org/>

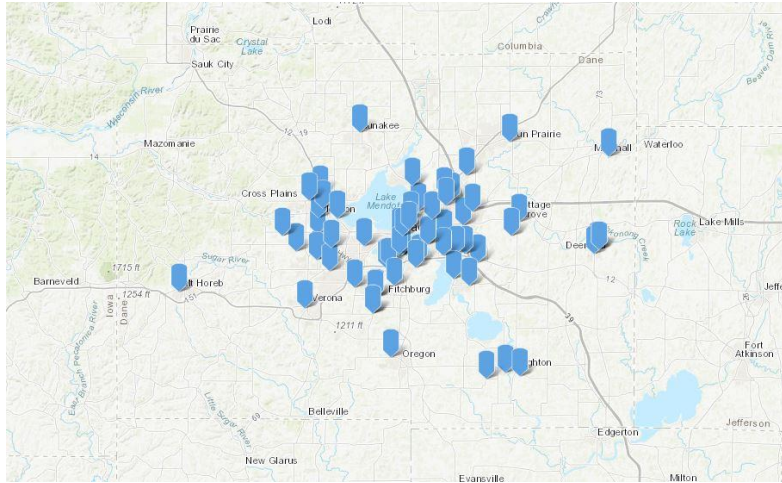
Dane County passed its [Climate Action Plan \(CAP\)](#) in 2020, working across the county and with its municipalities and other organizations to craft a set of goals and commitments to action, led by the recently-created Office of Energy and Climate Change (OECC). This CAP was designed to address our contributions to climate change and chart a path towards resilience against its projected impacts in the coming years.



In the four years since the passage and rollout of that Plan, Dane County and the OECC have announced numerous impressive accomplishments, including becoming the [first Platinum SolSmart county](#) in the nation, and using renewable electricity at all County facilities (through a combination of direct installations and purchased renewable energy credits) which made it just the 4th county in the US to be powered by 100% renewable electricity.

Those partners working with the Dane County OECC have also announced their own slate of accomplishments over the past several years, Fitchburg among them. Dane County has worked to publicize as many of these efforts as possible, with press releases, joint announcements, and a GIS-based [Clean Energy Map](#) of the entire county. This map, linked below, shows off many of the clean energy highlights found throughout Dane County, offering

a chance both to celebrate what we’ve done and to inspire us to follow our neighbors’ and partner’s examples moving forward.



August is National Water Quality Month

<https://nationalwaterqualitymonth.org/>

The month of August has been recognized as National Water Quality Month since 2005, with the United Nations supporting this Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-led initiative.



Fitchburg leads and participates in various efforts to keep our water bodies clean and free of excess waste, pesticides, organic matter, and other pollutants; residents and businesses can participate in many of these, from [Wisconsin Salt Wise](#) to [Adopt-A-Storm-Drain](#) to [Leaf-Free Streets](#) and more.



Check out the National Water Quality Month website to learn more about the importance of high-quality water and what you can do to contribute to safer, cleaner water for humans and the environment around us!

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.

