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1. Fitchburg Green Thursday Films

Thursday, Dec. 4, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Fitchburg Public Library – Room A/B

December's Green Thursday film, *Unwasted: The Future of Business on Earth*, details the impacts of business waste, discusses zero waste as a key element of the sustainable business model, and covers ideas for sustainable business practices.



2. Fitchburg Library's Alternative Gifts Info Fair

Saturday, December 6th at 11:00 a.m.



Skip the mall and consider something more meaningful as a holiday gift! Come learn about alternative gifts, such as sponsoring endangered animals, a library system in Uganda, or farmers living in areas with poverty.

3. Recycle Old Holiday Lights at City Hall

If you find some dead strings of holiday lights while decorating for the holiday season, you can bring them to Fitchburg City Hall for recycling through January 30, 2015. A special cart is now available 24 hours/day in the City Hall Lobby, 5520 Lacy Road. Fitchburg residents can drop off non-working holiday light strings and extension cords for recycling. Residents must remove any bulbs larger than marble-size and recycle those separately at participating stores.



4. This Winter Consider a Low-Salt Diet for Your Sidewalks and Driveways

When snow and ice start to accumulate on Fitchburg roads, parking lots, and sidewalks, one of the most common strategies is to apply salt. While salt works well to melt ice and snow, unfortunately it contains chloride that dissolves in melt water and eventually washes into our lakes, rivers and streams. Once in the water, there's no way to remove the chloride, harming fish and plant life in our waters. Salt can also create costly repair bills when it corrodes steel on door jams or concrete.



Here are some ways for businesses and homeowners to reduce salt use while still making sure your sidewalks and driveways are safe:

- **Shovel.** The more snow and ice you remove manually, the less salt you will have to use and the salt can work more effectively. Break up ice with an ice scraper and decide if application of a deicer or sand is even necessary to maintain traction.
- **More salt does not mean more melting.** You only need about 8 oz of salt (a paper cup's worth) per 150 square feet of pavement (about the size of a parking space).
- **15 degrees F is too cold for salt to work.** Most salts stop working around this temperature. Instead, use sand for traction.
- **Sweep up extra salt.** If salt or sand is visible on dry pavement, it is no longer doing any work and will be washed away.

For more information, check out two videos on winter sidewalk and driveway maintenance, with tips on types of salt, when to use it and how much to use:

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qc8Y-Nmfmo>
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=mBcPOqpnrCU

5. Stay Home, Slow Down and Drive Safely This Winter

During big snow events, consider staying off the roads during major snow events to let the plows safely clear roads, sidewalks and parking lots. If you need to be out on the roads, here are some winter driving tips:

- Ice and snow, take it slow – slower speed, slower acceleration, slower steering and slower braking.
- If you have anti-lock brakes, press the pedal down firmly and hold it. If you do not have ABS breaks, gently pump the pedal.
- Brake early, brake correctly and never slam on the brakes.
- Even if you drive a SUV or four-wheel drive vehicle, you may not be able to stop any faster or maintain control any better once you lose traction. Four-wheel drive may get you going faster, but it won't help you stop sooner.
- Look further ahead in traffic than you normally would. Actions by other vehicles will alert you to the problems more quickly and give you extra time to react safely.
- Accelerate gradually and avoid abrupt steering maneuvers.
- Merge slowly since sudden movements can cause your vehicle to slide.



Please contact [Erika Kluetmeier](#), Sustainability Specialist, at 270-4274 if you have any questions, comments, and/or suggestions on future Green E-News topics. Thank you!