

3. 2015 Solid Waste Collection Calendar and Recycling Guide Available Online

Visit www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste for updated recycling and solid waste collection information. The [2015 Solid Waste Collection Calendar](#) and [2015 Recycling Guide](#) are now available.

4. Zero Waste Resolutions for the New Year

Fitchburg staff is investigating “Zero Waste” initiatives to implement in 2015. One initiative is to thoroughly review and update to Fitchburg’s Recycling Guide, and consider renaming it, since it also includes recommendations on “Reducing,” “Reusing,” and “Rethinking.” If you have suggestions for refinements to the content or name of this guide, please email rick.eilertson@fitchburgwi.gov.



5. Holiday Tree Collection Starts Jan. 5th

Holiday tree collection will begin the week of January 5th for single to four-unit residential homes as well as apartments and condominium properties subscribed to “brush collection” with the City of Fitchburg. A second holiday tree collection will take place the week of January 20th. January weather is unpredictable and tree collections may be delayed in the case of snow/ice conditions. Trees should be at the curb by 6:30 a.m. on Monday morning of the collection week.

In case of snow/ice conditions, collections will be delayed until plowing is completed. If your collection is delayed due to snow, please pull your tree back from the curb so it does not become buried in the snow pushed back by the plow. Trees which become frozen or lost in snow banks might not get picked up until the snow banks melt.



Place trees so that the trunks face the street. Remove all foreign matter from each tree, including lights, wire, tinsel, ornaments, plastic bags, tree stands, etc. Trees with foreign matter will not be collected. Trees containing nails or other metal objects will not be chipped because they may damage the chipper and present a safety hazard to the operator.

Flocked trees (material sprayed) are not collected, and must be disposed of in the refuse, with a Refuse Tag attached. Wreaths, although often made from tree branches, are considered refuse if they contain metal or other foreign supporting devices and should be disposed of accordingly. Set wreaths and garland in your refuse cart or in a bag next to your refuse cart with a Refuse Tag attached.

6. 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.



7. State Trail Passes Make Great Holiday Gifts

If you are looking for the perfect gift for your favorite outdoor enthusiast, give the gift of access to the great Wisconsin State Trail system in and around Fitchburg! With special thanks to the Friends of Capital Springs Recreation Area, 2015 State Trail Passes are now available for purchase at Fitchburg’s Community Center, 5510 Lacy Rd, from 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The payment of \$20/State Trail Pass can be received in either cash or check. The Department of Natural Resources will honor 2015 trail passes for December 2014. For more information on state trail passes, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/trailpass.html>.

8. Winter Biking Options Abound In Fitchburg



Consider keeping in motion on your bike this winter. With the right equipment and layers, you can enjoy safe and warm bike rides year round! Bike paths are plowed in winter for recreational riders and commuters alike, though the day of a storm and a couple days after are not usually suitable for bicycling while the roads and paths are being cleared. For more information on winter biking and gear, visit bikewinter.org/city/Madison at or stop in Fitchburg Cycles at 2970 Cahill Main, fitchburgcycles.com.

9. Refuse and Recycling Cart Placement

Winter time means new challenges for everyone as we deal with the snow and cold. It's important to follow these two Fitchburg Refuse/Trash & Recycling Cart Placement guidelines year round:

- **Place your carts ~1 foot to 3 feet behind the back of the curb (or edge of the street)**
- **Carts should be at least 4 feet away from surrounding objects**
- **Do NOT place carts in the street.**
- **Please avoid placing your carts curbside the night before collection if high winds or storms are expected.** High winds and storms can tip over the carts and leave a mess to be cleaned up.



The photo shows the recommended placement. Each cart needs to be close enough to the street for the arm of the collection truck to reach it, and 4 feet away from surrounding objects for the grabbers to be able to wrap around the cart. Carts placed in the curb or street are a safety hazard for traffic, create obstacles for snow plows and street sweepers and can be damaged if hit. (Damages caused by carts placed in the street are the homeowners' responsibility.)

By city ordinance, refuse and recycling carts cannot be placed at the street more than 24 hours prior to the scheduled pickup and need to be removed within 12 hours after the pickup. Also, the carts can not be stored in front of a house or along its side yard. For more information, please visit our website at: www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste or contact Fitchburg Public Works at 270-4260.

10. Celebrate the Holidays with a Green Twist

The holiday season is a magical time of year to celebrate, give thanks, decorate, feast and exchange gifts with family and friends. In the process, the average American typically increases their household solid waste by 25 percent between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency!



Involve your family to plan your holidays using less. There are easy ways to go green this holiday season that can save money, lower your stress, and reduce your eco-footprint! Here are a few easy tips to be even greener this holiday season:

Buying Gifts

- Buy items that can be reused or recycled. Buy used items and keep them in circulation.
- Buy local, support local businesses and remember to bring your own bag too!
- Give the gift of services or experiences: gift certificates to local restaurants, spas, kids' classes, tickets to theaters/concerts/movies, state park sticker/trail passes, health clubs, hair salons, etc.

Reducing Energy

- Invest in LED holiday lights. LED lights use up to 90% less energy than incandescent bulbs.
- Turn off or unplug holiday lights during the day or use a timer, which saves energy and prolongs the life of your lights.

Reducing Waste

- Use rechargeable batteries.

- Wrap gifts in reused or recycled wrapping paper, newspaper, paper grocery bags or fabric.
- Make handmade tree decorations: baked dough ornaments, popcorn and cranberry garland.
- At parties, avoid paper, Styrofoam and plastic or paper plates/cups/utensils. If you do use plastic items, wash and reuse them.

For more information on holiday recycling and what types of packing and wrapping materials are recyclable, visit Fitchburg's website: www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste. For greener holiday tips, visit U.S. EPA's website at: www.epa.gov/students/holiday.html.

Please contact [Erika Kluetmeier](mailto:erika.kluetmeier@fitchburgwi.gov), Sustainability Specialist, at erika.kluetmeier@fitchburgwi.gov or 270-4274 if you have any questions, comments, and/or suggestions on future Green E-News topics.

Happy Holidays and Have a Great New Year!