

In This Issue

1. [Green Thursday Film Screening: “The 11th Hour”](#)
2. [Food Scrap Drop-off Site at Swan Creek Park](#)
3. [Sustain Dane Summit This Friday, November 7](#)
4. [Wisconsin’s IRA-Funded Home Energy Rebate Programs](#)
5. [RoundTrip – Find Alternatives to Driving Alone](#)
6. [UN Climate Summit to Begin November 10](#)
7. [Green Holidays and Recycling](#)
8. [2026 Fitchburg Solid Waste Calendar](#)

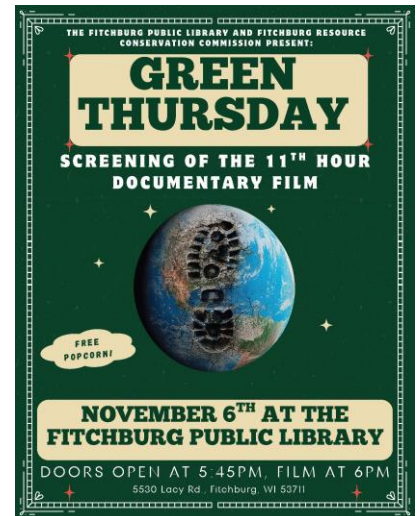
Green Thursday Film Screening: “The 11th Hour”

<https://www.fitchburgwi.gov/2336/Green-Fitchburg-Events>

Join the City of Fitchburg Library and Resource Conservation Commission for a film screening of the 11th Hour at the Fitchburg Library on Thursday, November 6th from 6:00 pm-7:45 pm. Learn about climate change, deforestation, mass species extinction, and the depletion of the oceans' habitats. The film will lead into a short discussion following the showing.

Plans are to continue environmental and sustainability film showings every 2 months on the 1st or 2nd Thursday of the month going forward.

Please bring a reusable water bottle and join us for this thought-provoking and educational event. Popcorn will be provided for attendees.



Food Scrap Drop-off Site at Swan Creek Park

<https://www.fitchburgwi.gov/3005/Food-Scrap-Stop>

The Dane County Department of Waste + Renewables is now offering free food scrap drop-offs for residents! In Fitchburg, Swan Creek Park is hosting the newest drop-off site, which you can visit to divert your scraps from the landfill. Food scraps will be composted by Purple Cow Organics and turned into fertilizer to grow your future food.

While this program is free to all residents, the collection carts will be locked to help prevent contamination and pests. To participate, residents must register for the program through the Dane County Waste + Renewables website ([register here](#)). Once registered, you will receive a lock combination allowing you to unlock the collection carts.

For food scrap collection tips and tricks, please review the [Resident Food Scrap Collection Tips + Bagging Guidelines](#), and see the below graphic highlighting accepted and non-accepted materials to put in this composting bin.

FOOD

SCRAP STOP

FROM KITCHEN TO COMPOST • DE LA COCINA AL COMPOST



DANE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
WASTE + RENEWABLES

FREE drop off for all residents within Dane County
Servicio **GRATUITO** para todos los residentes del Condado de Dane

RESIDENTIAL ACCEPTED ACEPTABLES	NOT ACCEPTED INACEPTABLES
<p>FRUITS & VEGETABLES Raw and cooked fruits & vegetables –pits, peels, cobs and all</p>  <p>FRUTAS Y VERDURAS Frutas y verduras crudas y cocidas –con hueso, cáscara, mazorca y todo</p>	<p>NO MEAT No meat, bones, seafood, or animal products</p>  <p>NADA DE CARNES Nada de carne, huesos, mariscos ni productos animales</p>
<p>COFFEE & TEA Grounds or loose tea without filters or bags</p>  <p>CAFÉ Y TÉ Té molido o suelta, sin filtros ni bolsitas</p>	<p>NO DAIRY OR EGGS No cheese, cream, yogurt, or other dairy and egg products</p>  <p>NADA DE LÁCTEOS O HUEVOS Nada de queso, crema, yogur, productos lácteos ni productos con huevo</p>
<p>EGGSHELLS Shells, but not the eggs</p>  <p>CÁSCARAS DE HUEVO Cáscaras, pero no los huevos</p>	<p>NO BREADS OR BAKED GOODS No breads, pastas, baked goods, or candies</p>  <p>NADA DE PAN O PRODUCTOS HORNEADOS Nada de pan, pastas, productos horneados ni dulces</p>
<p>BEANS & NUTS All beans, seeds, nuts, and shells</p>  <p>FRIJOLE Y SEMILLAS Todos los frijoles, semillas, frutos secos y cáscaras</p>	<p>NO LIQUIDS No milk, coffee, juices, sauces, fats, oils, greases, or waxes</p>  <p>NADA DE LÍQUIDOS Nada de leche, café, jugos, salsas, grasas, aceites ni ceras</p>
<p>For lock code access to the free drop-off, please register online by using the QR code or visit landfill.danecounty.gov/compost.</p>  <p>Para acceder al punto de entrega gratuito que tengo código de bloqueo, registrense en línea usando el código QR o visiten el sitio landfill.danecounty.gov/compost.</p>	<p>NO PAPER* No paper, napkins, tissues, pizza boxes, parchment, wax paper, or cardboard (*paper bags for collecting food scraps are an allowed exception)</p>  <p>NADA DE PAPEL* Nada de papel, servilletas, pañuelos desechables, cajas de pizza, papel pergamino, papel encerado ni cartón (*las bolsas de papel para disponer de restos de comida son una excepción permitida)</p>
<p>To report issues or for program questions contact: Waste.Renewables@DaneCounty.Gov</p> <p>Para preguntas sobre el programa o para reportar un problema en una estación para desechos de alimentos, envíen un correo electrónico a Waste.Renewables@DaneCounty.Gov</p>	<p>NO INORGANICS OR HAZARDOUS No plastic, metal, or Styrofoam (inorganics), or glass, sharps, chemicals, animal waste, or litter (hazards)</p>  <p>NADA DE MATERIALES INORGÁNICOS O PELIGROSOS Nada de plástico, metal o poliestireno (materiales inorgánicos), tampoco vidrio, objetos punzantes, productos químicos, desechos animales ni basura (materiales peligrosos)</p>
<p>Keep lid closed when not in use</p> <p>Replace and close lock when finished</p>	<p>NO PACKAGING No produce stickers, twist ties, staples, rubber bands, food service products, or "compostable/biodegradable" items</p>  <p>NADA DE ENVASES Nada de etiquetas para productos agrícolas, lazos de torsión, grapas, elásticos, productos de servicios alimentarios ni artículos "compostables/biodegradables"</p>

Sustain Dane Summit This Friday, November 7

<https://sustaindane.org/eventbrite-event/sustain-dane-summit-2025/>

Sustain Dane is holding its annual summit at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center this Friday, November 7 from 8:00am-3:00pm. Join sustainability professionals from around the region, passionate and concerned citizens, academic professionals and students, non-profit representatives, and other attendees for a day full of inspiration, celebration, and learning.

This year’s keynote speaker is Arielle V. King, host of “The Joy Report” podcast, an expert in environmental justice, sustainability, and law, and a committed educator and communicator. Featured panels cover the topics of housing, local business action, and a collaborative project blending music and climate/ocean science.

Register for the Summit on [Eventbrite](#).

Wisconsin’s IRA-Funded Home Energy Rebate Programs

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIGOV/bulletins/3f54a84>

Last month, Governor Tony Evers announced the exciting news that Inflation Reduction Act-funded home energy rebates are now available at Wisconsin retailers, through instant discounts and post-purchase rebates.

The state of Wisconsin took on a leading role in making use of IRA funding while it was available, kicking off two new energy-efficiency programs using available federal incentives, HEAR (Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates for lower-income households) and HOMES (Home Efficiency Rebates for whole-home projects such as insulation and HVAC upgrades). These programs supplement the already-successful Focus on Energy program, a ratepayer-funded utility incentive/rebate program that in over 20 years has saved Wisconsin’s residents and businesses almost \$250 million.

Look for instant discounts on shelves at retailers selling energy-efficient products near you, and learn more about the Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates program for low- and moderate-income residents on the [Focus on Energy website](#).

RoundTrip – Find Alternatives to Driving Alone

<https://roundtripgreatermadison.org/>



The Greater Madison MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) has developed a RoundTrip website to help Dane County residents discover alternative transportation options to driving alone in cars.

From walking or biking, to riding the bus or finding a regular carpool, getting single-occupancy vehicles off the road is one of the best options for reducing road traffic and cutting vehicular emissions.

RoundTrip primarily functions as an online platform, highlighting alternate transit events (e.g. group bike rides and transportation-themed conferences); suggesting alternate commuting options based on your origin and destination; encouraging registrants to participate in “Smart Trips Challenges”; and connecting users with an Emergency Ride Home program, a free

option for “car-free and car-light commuters” to get home quickly and safely and avoid being stranded in unexpected situations.

Check out RoundTrip today and begin exploring your own car-light commuting options!

UN Climate Summit to Begin November 10

<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/cop30>

This month, from November 10-21, world leaders, scientists, and advocates will gather in Belém, Brazil, for the 30th annual United Nations Climate Conference, known as COP30. These global summits bring together nearly every nation to discuss how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to climate impacts, and support sustainable development. While it may seem distant from day-to-day life, COP conferences help set the direction for climate action that ultimately shapes everything from national policies and business investments to local sustainability initiatives.



One of the main focuses of COP30 will be reviewing progress toward the Paris Agreement targets first set in 2015. Those goals aimed to limit global temperature rise to well below 2°C—and ideally 1.5°C—above pre-industrial levels. This year marks the next opportunity for countries to assess and discuss how close they are to meeting those targets, and commit to new or updated climate action plans. The conference will also focus on accelerating the shift away from fossil fuels, scaling up renewable energy, and financing climate adaptation for communities already facing the effects of a warming planet.

For those following along at home, there are several storylines worth watching. Expect renewed debate around how wealthier nations can better support developing countries in funding renewable energy and climate resilience. You’ll also hear about nature-based solutions—like reforestation and wetland restoration—that can store carbon and protect biodiversity, a particularly fitting topic for the host city of Belém, at the gateway to the Amazon rainforest.

While these global agreements may sound abstract, their ripple effects are very real. International climate goals drive incentives for clean energy projects, shape local climate resilience planning, and encourage businesses to measure and reduce emissions. Paying attention to COP30 helps connect the dots between the world’s climate promises and the local actions—like renewable energy programs, sustainable transportation, or native plant restoration—that make them possible.

Green Holidays and Recycling

<https://greenamerica.org/magazine/go-green-holidays>

The December holiday season can generate a tremendous amount of waste, from excess energy usage of holiday decorations, wrapping paper, and packaging and shipping miles associated with purchasing gifts from far away. But with some careful planning and slight changes, your happy holidays can also be waste-reducing!



Here are just a few ideas, from Green America’s “[go green for the holidays](#)” lists and elsewhere, on what you can do to lower the impact of your end-of-year celebrations:

Green Holiday Ideas:

- **Minimize/Rethink Gifts:** Agreeing to exchange fewer gifts, or giving experiences or homemade items instead of material gifts, can significantly reduce waste and emissions associated with gift-giving.
- **Greener Wrapping Paper:** Gift wrap kept in good condition can be reused in future years, and reusable/recyclable boxes and wrapping materials are also eco-friendly alternatives.
- **Secondhand Gifts:** “Re-gifting” has become somewhat of a cultural faux-pas, but a gift needn’t be brand new in order to be thoughtful, personal, and appreciated. Giving an item purchased secondhand or that you no longer need is a great alternative that helps to avoid the use of new materials/packaging.
- **Choose LED lights:** Using LED lights instead of incandescent saves a lot of energy, and this is true for holiday lights as well; these lights also typically have a much longer lifespan.
- **Christmas Tofurkey?** A meat-free diet is the least carbon-intensive choice, but even less (or less-eco-intense) meat can make a huge difference in emissions generated.
- **Shop Local:** Whether gifts, decorations, or food, buying local both supports your local economy and reduces vehicle miles and associated emissions.
- **Use Plant-Based Glitter:** Most glitter is plastic and can linger in the environment for a very long time. If glitter is a must, look for biodegradable, plant-based options.

Extra packaging and materials from holiday celebrations and gift exchanges can leave your refuse and recycling carts overflowing. Americans typically generate 25% more waste during the holidays. Much of your holiday packaging can be recycled curbside in your recycling cart or

dropped off at the Fitchburg Recycling Drop Off Site at 2373 S. Fish Hatchery Rd. Read on to learn more about what can and cannot be reused or recycled:

- **Wrapping paper** can be recycled in your blue recycling cart as long as it's paper-based. You must remove all ribbon and bows. **Foil-type or plastic-based** wrapping paper is **not** recyclable and should either be reused or discarded in your green refuse carts. If you're uncertain what type of paper you have, scrunch it into a ball. If the gift wrap remains compressed, it's likely paper-based and can be recycled; if it springs back quickly, the gift wrap is likely plastic- or foil-based and should be thrown away.
- **Wrapping paper tubes**, along with paper towel and toilet tissue cores, can be recycled in your blue recycling cart.
- **Tissue paper** is **not** recyclable and should either be reused or discarded in your green refuse carts.
- **Greeting cards and envelopes** that are paper-based and non-foil can be recycled in your blue cart, but non-paper items such as metal foil and photographs should be removed and discarded in your green refuse cart.
- **Cardboard and paperboard gift boxes** can be reused or recycled in your blue recycling cart or taken to the Fitchburg Recycling Drop Off Site and placed in the cardboard recycling dumpsters. Remove any excess tape or ribbons prior to recycling, and flatten boxes to assist with the sorting and recycling process.
- **Holiday lights and extension cords** can be dropped off at Fitchburg City Hall Lobby (5520 Lacy Rd.) 24/hours per day through January 31, 2026. Residents should remove any bulbs larger than marble-size and recycle those separately at participating stores. Consider buying LED lights to replace your old or broken lights to save energy throughout the holiday season!
- **Holiday Trees (real)** – Holiday tree collection will occur during the weeks of January 5, 2026 and January 19, 2026. Please place your tree behind the curb with the stump facing the street by Monday at 6:30am during those two weeks. These trees get chipped and then made available to residents as wood chips and compost at the Recycling Drop Off Site.
- **Holiday Trees (artificial)** – Artificial trees are not recyclable. Buy a Refuse Tag and set out with refuse. If the tree is in good condition, consider saving for reuse or donating to St. Vincent De Paul or Goodwill.
- **Wreaths (real)** – Remove branches from framing. Take both to the Recycling Drop Off Site at S. Fish Hatchery Rd (2373 S. Fish Hatchery Rd). Put boughs in "yard waste" and metal or steel framing in "scrap metal." The branches can also be composted at home or placed at the curb during the next brush collection day.
- **White block polystyrene**, also known as Styrofoam, can be taken to the white polystyrene recycling dumpster at the Fitchburg Recycling Drop Off Site.
- **Batteries** – Most batteries are collected for recycling by retailers that sell such battery types, but some must be taken to specific disposal sites or should be disposed of with household waste. See the [2025 Fitchburg Recycling Guide](#) and the WI DNR [Household Battery Recycling](#) info sheet to learn about safe battery disposal. *Note: Check with specific locations if you wish to drop off alkaline batteries for collection. Some may accept these batteries, but otherwise they should be disposed of with household waste.*
- **Ribbon** is not recyclable and should either be reused or discarded.

- **Bubble wrap** can be reused, and while it can also sometimes be recycled, it should never be placed in your blue recycling bin. Check grocery stores and other locations that accept plastic bags and film for recycling, to see if they accept bubble wrap as well.
- **Ornaments** are not recyclable and should be either reused or discarded.
- **Garland** is not recyclable and should either be reused or discarded.
- **Tinsel** is not recyclable and should either be reused or discarded.
- Visit www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste to view Fitchburg’s Holiday Recycling Guide, which is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).



2026 Fitchburg Solid Waste Calendar



[2026-Draft-Solid-Waste-Collection-Calendar Final](#)

The 2026 Fitchburg Solid Waste calendar has been released, and you can find it on the City’s website in downloadable and printable format at [this link](#). The calendar is a helpful reminder for which weeks are trash-only vs also including recycling pickup, as well as yard waste and brush collection dates. Note that the first and third weeks of January are designated holiday tree collection weeks, so if you purchased a live tree this winter, set it outside behind your curb line on Monday the 5th or 19th to have it collected.

Fitchburg Solid Waste and Recycling Calendar 2026											
January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December

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.

