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Council to Discuss 100% Renewable Energy Resolution

The 100% Renewable Energy Resolution is a strong step toward action by setting ambitious, achievable targets and guidelines for energy use-reduction and renewable energy generation for city operations and the community as a whole. In 2008, the Common Council adopted the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. In 2017, the citywide solar initiative installed 362 kW of solar photovoltaics (electric) moving closer to the goals set in the Energy Independent Community Resolution to generate 25% of its energy from renewables locally by 2025.

The resolution sets ambitious, achievable goals for City operations and community-wide carbon reductions, with bigger achievements as MGE increases utility scale renewables, battery storage

prices decrease, energy efficiencies increase, and transportation electrification progresses. Over 70 US cities have adopted 100% renewable energy goals, and 5 US cities have reached their goals.

Ready more about the Ready for 100% campaign here

<https://www.sierraclub.org/ready-for-100> .

Fitchburg residents, businesses, and organizations will reap environmental, economic, and health benefits from clean energy. Fitchburg will actively engage in safeguarding good quality of life for their children, grandchildren and future generations. The Resource Conservation Commission requested the Fitchburg Common Council review the resolution after briefly discussing a [first draft](#) on July 16th.



Battery Recycling Update

Update to battery recycling! *We do not accept alkaline batteries for recycling. Wisconsin DNR says alkaline batteries may go to the landfill.* Residents may recycle rechargeable batteries in the Fitchburg City Hall Lobby. Boxes sent to Call2Recycle will no longer contain alkaline batteries.

Each battery must have tape on the terminals before depositing in the recycling box. Batteries accepted for recycling include:

- Rechargeable AA, AAA, C, D
- Nickel cadmium (Ni-Cd)
- Nickel metal hydride (Ni-MH)
- Nickel zinc (Ni-Zn)
- Lithium ion (Li-Ion)
- Small sealed lead acid



Recycling Notes from Pellitteri

Local Action Requested: Contamination rates at the recycling material recovery facility are increasing. We are finding that well-intentioned residents are putting things that they *think should or could* be recycled in the bins.



- Residents should only put approved recyclables in their recycling cart. For a current recycling list please visit <https://www.pellitteri.com/pages/recycling-info-for-residential>
- Recycling carts with any visible trash or non-recyclables in them will be tagged with a notice of non-pickup due to contamination and not serviced.

Recycling Industry Update: The recycling industry is grappling with a dual threat: The value of recovered recyclable products has plummeted over the past couple of years and the amount of contamination in the recycling has risen. Too much garbage is present in the recycling stream, clogging sorting facilities and contaminating good recyclables.

As recycling costs are rising, the demand for recycled materials is falling. Recently China has imposed bans on purchasing recycled materials. Meanwhile low oil prices have increased the use of virgin materials for products reducing the demand for recycled material.

As your local service provider and the recycling sorting facility operator, it is our job to help your community keep the trash out of the recycling stream and thus keep our local recycling systems strong. [Read about [Recycling Wise on pages 8-9 here](#)]

How do we keep the trash out of the recycling stream? Together, let's tackle the problem head on and get back to the basics of recycling.

Sincerely,
Danielle Pellitteri
V.P. of Sales

Cell phones thrown in trash are exploding, causing 5-alarm fires in garbage trucks

USA Today, Elizabeth Weise, published May 18, 2018 [Link to full story](#)

Even if high-energy lithium ion batteries have expended themselves in your electronic or other device, connection to metal, in a truck for example, can cause a closed circuit and create a spark. Lithium ion battery makers ask users of cell phones, laptops, cameras and rechargeable power tools to not throw batteries away in the garbage. Lithium ion batteries are causing a number of serious fires in garbage collection trucks and at waste facilities. Precautions you can take include recycling them in special lithium ion battery receptacles at your local recycling center or at stores like Home Depot and Best Buy, placing in a plastic bag or covering the metal ends with duct tape. Alkaline batteries don't carry enough charge to be a fire danger.

Sustainable Middleton <http://www.ci.middleton.wi.us/447/Sustainable-Middleton-July-2018>

Recycling at Home <https://www.pellitteri.com/pages/recycling-info-for-residential>

Yale Climate Connections <https://www.yaleclimateconnections.org/>

What's your solution? Why cities are "at the heart" of climate change solutions

Please contact Ellen Geisler, Sustainability Specialist, at ellen.geisler@fitchburgwi.gov or 270-4274 if you have any questions, comments, and/or suggestions for future Green E-News topics

