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### Reinventing Power – November 15, 6:30 pm

Join us at the Fitchburg Public Library on Thursday, November 15, for a showing of Reinventing Power, a documentary that tells the backstory of clean energy from innovation to installation. The Fitchburg Public Library, Resource Conservation Commission, and Sierra Club are collaborating for this event. Professor Jim Tinjum will speak after the film. The film starts at 6:30pm with discussion to follow.

<http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/Calendar.aspx?EID=6774>



### NEW! Sustainable Fitchburg Online Map

Sustainability is more than energy efficiency and water conservation. We started a map of Sustainable Fitchburg to help everyone understand what sustainability means and why it's important. Readers will see that this map includes environmental, economic, and social components.

Access the Sustainable Fitchburg online map through the Green Fitchburg website  
<http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/142/Green-Fitchburg>

### Proper Tree Pruning – tips from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

From Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, PUB-FR-256 2003

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/forestmanagement/documents/pub/FR-256.pdf>

*When to prune?* The best time to prune any deciduous tree is when it is dormant, typically November - March in Wisconsin. The second best time is mid-summer, after leaf growth is complete. The worst time to do major pruning is in the spring, when tree buds and/or leaves are still growing and food reserves are low. Dead limbs may be removed any time of year.

*Why prune?* Future health, safety, and aesthetics. Young trees are pruned to establish good branch structure and spacing, a central trunk and proper trunk taper. Mature trees are pruned to remove dead and/or hazardous limbs.

## How do I recycle that?

We all have moments when we don't know if something should go to the landfill or if it can be recycled. ReCollect is a search tool on the city's website to help you determine disposal methods. Recollect Systems strives to make waste management programs more efficient and successful. Check it out on the city website <http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/146/Solid-Waste> .

Fitchburg, WI Recycling Guide

Need help? | Share

Type the name of a waste item and we'll tell you how to recycle or dispose of it.

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Powered by **ReCollect**

**Please Note:**

Pellitteri accepts plastic bags in recycling if they are properly prepared - *plastic bags (grocery, newspaper, dry cleaning, etc. - no black or brown bags) - place clean, dry bags into a clear or transparent bag and tie shut; a full bag should be the size of a basketball.*

Waste Management and Advanced Disposal do not accept plastic bags in recycling.

## What happens when you put plastic bags in your recycling cart

The Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) News Hour has produced a brief video about why to not place plastic bags in your recycling cart. It explains why this can be a big problem for recycling facilities and why plastic bags should be recycled at drop-off locations only. Check it out! [Why you shouldn't recycle plastic bags at home](#)

## Refuse & Recycling Ps and Qs

A few reminders as you place your refuse or recycling carts curbside on collection day this week. Remember to place your carts on the terrace or at the street's edge, but *not in the street*. If left in the street, they interfere with traffic, street sweepers, snow plows and, as happened in the recent storm, can be carried away down the street, spreading the contents along the way.

If your refuse or recycling cart are regularly overflowing, consider contacting Pellitteri Waste Systems at 257-4285 to upgrade to a larger refuse and recycling cart. There's a \$15/refuse cart swap fee and may be additional charges over the course of the year for a larger size. An easy way to confirm what size cart you currently have is to write down the numbers on the right side of the cart. The first two numbers are typically the year the cart was made (e.g. "05" was made in 2005). The last group of 6 numbers tells the size ("300264" is a 35 gallon cart). Numbers starting in "6" indicate a 65 gallon cart and numbers starting in "9" indicate a 95 gallon cart.



By city ordinance, refuse and recycling carts cannot be placed at the street more than 24 hours prior to the scheduled pick-up and need to be removed within 12 hours after the pick-up. Also, the carts cannot be stored in front of a house or along its side yard.

To recycle **small plastic items**, like bottle caps, either place them inside a plastic container or, in the case of a plastic bottle, put them back on the bottle. They are too small to make it thru the recycling process on their own and, if left loose, they will likely contaminate the glass recyclables.

For more information, please visit our website at: [www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste](http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste) or contact Fitchburg Public Works at 270-4260.

### Salt Doesn't Go Away

*From Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District*

The salt that we put in our water softeners and on our roads ends up in local fresh water bodies, where it can threaten aquatic life. Once salt is in fresh water bodies, it's extremely difficult and expensive to remove. We can all do our part to protect water by taking steps to reduce our salt use. If we're successful, we can keep our fresh water healthy while keeping sewer bills low.

Salt is a useful tool to maintain roadways in the winter and keep our tap water soft year-round but it is important to use the right amount of salt to get the job done. Learn more about it at <https://www.wisaltwise.com/>



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Please send questions, comments, and/or suggestions for future Green E-News topics to Ellen Geisler, Sustainability Specialist, at [ellen.geisler@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:ellen.geisler@fitchburgwi.gov) or 270-4274

