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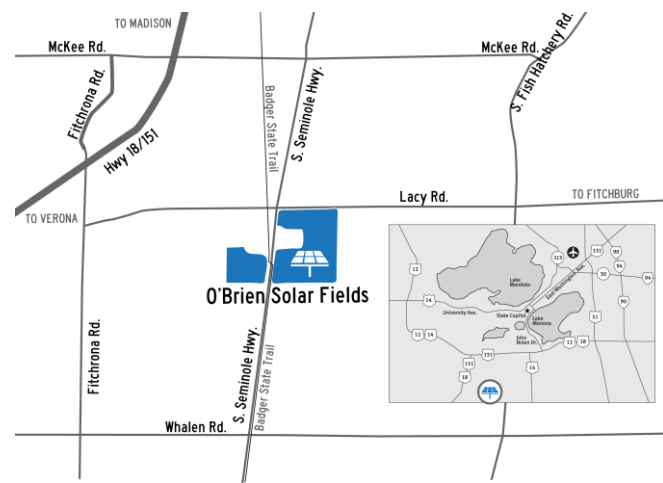
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Dane County's Largest Solar Array Coming to Fitchburg

<https://www.mqe.com/newsroom/news-releases/articles/major-solar-project-in-fitchburg-receives-approval>

Announced last week by Madison Gas & Electric (MG&E), the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) has given final approval to plans for a 20-megawatt solar array to be built in Fitchburg, at the intersection of Seminole Hwy and Lacy Rd. The array, covering 160 acres and expected to cost \$32 million, will be designed and developed by EDF Renewables, and then managed by MG&E. Upon completion and startup in 2021, the O'Brien Solar Fields will become the largest solar array in Dane County.

Along with six other commercial and public customers, the City of Fitchburg has contracted with MG&E to source a portion of the solar electricity from the O'Brien Solar Fields. Fitchburg will purchase 1/40th of the electricity generated by this project (the equivalent of 0.5 megawatts of capacity) under a Renewable Energy Rider tariff approved by the PSC, with nearly 1,000 megawatt-hours of electricity expected to be delivered to Fitchburg annually. Covering roughly 19% of Fitchburg's annual municipal electricity usage, the energy purchased from this array is projected to increase the city's clean-energy portfolio to almost 40% of overall municipal electricity use, well above the city's commitment to achieving 25% renewable electricity by 2025. Given current energy pricing trends, this project also offers the potential for long-term cost savings for Fitchburg.



The location of the O'Brien Solar Fields in Fitchburg

October 7 is Energy Efficiency Day

<https://energyefficiencyday.org>



Save Money. Cut Pollution. Create Jobs.

Today, October 7, is National Energy Efficiency Day, recognized annually on the first Wednesday of October and an opportunity for people across the country to learn more about how they can use increased efficiency measures to cut down on their own energy usage at home, on the move, or at work. Last week the Senate approved a [resolution](#) recognizing October 7th as Energy Efficiency Day nationwide.

You can learn about [some of the best ways](#) to utilize energy efficiency to save on your energy bills (also shown below on this page), sign your organization on to the Energy Efficiency Day [list of supporters](#), and use the hashtag #EEDay on social media today to spread the word and follow messaging from others.

Energy Efficiency Day is part of [National Energy Awareness Month](#), stretching the entire month of October and encouraging us all to learn about how we can save both energy and water in our lives. Read these [fall/winter tips](#) from the U.S. Department of Energy, helping to prepare you for energy and cost savings as cooler weather approaches.

10 Simple Ways to Reduce Energy Waste at Home and at Work:

1. **Switch your light bulbs** to LED and save on electricity bills every day.
2. **Seal air leaks** to make your heating and cooling more efficient, save on energy costs, and make your home more comfortable.
3. **Heat and cool efficiently** – use a programmable or smart thermostat to make sure your furnace and AC aren't running more than is needed when you're away from home or asleep.
4. **Maintain your HVAC system** – getting regular tune-ups and replacing old furnace filters can result in significant energy savings and help your equipment last longer.
5. **Look for the ENERGY STAR label** on equipment to ensure you're getting guaranteed efficiency.
6. **Turn off electronics** when not in use, to reduce power being wasted when it's not needed.
7. **Take advantage of natural lighting**, especially in winter – open your west- and south-facing windows before turning on lights, and let the sun help add some heat to your home as well.
8. **Close your blinds and shades** in the summer – again, those west- and south-facing windows bring in lots of sun, so closing blinds can help keep your house cool without using as much AC.
9. **Clean your clothing efficiently** – using cold water and air-drying clothes can yield big savings!
10. **Clean up your dishes efficiently** – learn about your dishwasher to find the most efficient cycles to use, and think about air- or hand-drying dishes rather than the machine's heat-dry function.

Imagine A Day Without Water

<https://imagineadaywithoutwater.org/>

Text from linked website

No water to drink or wash your hands with. No water to shower, flush the toilet, or do laundry. Hospitals would close without water. Firefighters couldn't put out fires and farmers couldn't water their crops. Disease would spread.

This year, as communities across America faced the public health threat of the coronavirus pandemic, water and wastewater systems continued to do their job, 24/7, keeping the water flowing. Many Americans take water for granted every day. But what would a day be like without water? Imagine a Day Without Water 2020 is the sixth annual day to raise awareness and educate America about the value of water.



Imagine a Day Without Water

Imagine a Day Without Water is a national education campaign that brings together diverse stakeholders to highlight how water is essential, invaluable, and in need of investment.

This year, the day of action will take place on October 21, 2020, and will include events, resolutions, student contests, social media engagement, and more, all across the country.

Check out the Imagine A Day Without Water website for more details and to learn about this day of education and action, and see their suggestions for [five ways to participate in this campaign](#).

Brush and Yard Waste Collection Dates

<https://www.fitchburgwi.gov/2568/Brush-Yard-Waste>

Fitchburg provides curbside yard waste and brush pickup opportunities through our solid waste contract with Pellitteri Waste Systems. This month features two weeks when brush can be left out at the curb for collection (Oct 12-16 and 26-30), and one when yard waste can be left as well (Oct 26-30). See the City of Fitchburg website for detailed information on what can be left for pickup, proper methods for placing eligible materials, other collection dates throughout the year, and additional details on this service.

New Bridge on the Badger State Trail

<https://www.facebook.com/FitchburgWI/posts/1717381361758057>

Construction continues along McKee Rd in Fitchburg, but the region's newest bicycle network attraction is now officially open! The Badger State Trail, closed between the Bike Roundabout and Sub-Zero Parkway for much of the summer and fall, was re-opened on September 30th featuring a new overpass bridge above McKee Rd. The new bridge, stretching 121 feet and

crossing McKee Rd just a half-mile east of the Military Ridge State Trail bridge, was constructed by Wheeler Structures and is now Fitchburg’s third major bicycle bridge, along with the Military Ridge overpass and another bridge taking Capital City Trail users over Fish Hatchery Rd. near Hatchery Hill. This new bridge replaces a flashing beacon that cyclists and pedestrians previously relied on to indicate their presence to oncoming vehicular traffic, enhancing safety by reducing interactions between vehicles on McKee Rd and non-vehicular traffic on this major state trail.

Other October Observances



United Nations

**World Habitat Day
5 October**



**EARTH
SCIENCE
WEEK**

Earth Materials in Our Lives

October 11-17, 2020
www.earthsciweek.org

Gargantuan Grizzlies Celebrated

<https://www.theverge.com/2020/10/6/21504751/fat-bear-week-champion-winner-2020-katmai-national-park>

Winter is indeed coming, and for many creatures the fall months are a crucial time for storing up as much energy as possible to make it through the impending long, cold months until spring. To bring attention to this important time for wildlife, the Katmai National Park & Preserve just put the finishing touches on its annual “[Fat Bear Week](#),” a public-voting bracket competition celebrating the largest of the large among the southern Alaska park’s impressively rotund brown bears.



This event also serves as a fundraiser for the park’s Otis Fund, named after one of the bear’s oldest and most celebrated grizzlies and dedicated to providing ongoing education and wildlife protection throughout the park.

Following up 2019’s winner (nicknamed Holly), this year’s final pitted bear 32 (“Chunk”) against bear 747 (the “Jumbo Jet”). Coming in at an impressive—and intimidating—estimated 1,400+ pounds after a successful summer and fall chomping his way through a productive salmon stream, 747 won the final vote and hefted his way into the hearts of fans across the nation. Asked for his plans to celebrate the monumental achievement, the hulking ursid yawned and said, “I’m going to Disn----nope, just to hibernate. I’ve gotta sleep this off.”



Upcoming Events

UW Nelson Institute lectures/seminars

October 8

- [Jordahl Public Lands Lecture](#): *The return to belonging and reclaimed narratives about these lands (virtual)*
- *The World We Make: Resilient Minds, Resilient Planet (virtual)*

October 13

- *Preserving the Wisdom of the Land and Traditional Food Systems Through Education (UW Arboretum, virtual)*

November 12

- [Everyone's Earth](#): *Conversations on Race and Environment Coloring the Conservation Conversation*

See information for these and other Nelson Institute events at:
<https://nelson.wisc.edu/events/week-view.php?i=0>

Fitchburg Public Library: Fall for Reading

Sign up for the Fitchburg Public Library fall reading challenge, registering yourself or your whole family! As you read books, log your progress to earn badges and prizes.

Now through November 30

<https://fitchburgwi.beanstack.com/reader365>



Sustainable Transportation webinar series

Join Alliant Energy, Madison Gas and Electric, Wisconsin Clean Cities and the City of Madison for the last two installments in their Sustainable Transportation webinar series.

Sustainable Truck and Bus Solutions: Thu Oct 8 at 1:00pm



<https://business.fitchburgchamber.com/events/details/sustainable-truck-bus-solutions-webinar-1071>

Alternative Fuel Vehicles O&M: Thu Oct 15 at 1:00pm

<https://business.fitchburgchamber.com/events/details/operating-maintaining-alternative-fuel-vehicles-webinar-1072>

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 270-4259, if you have any questions, comments, and/or suggestions for future Green E-News topics.

