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## Cycle September is back

<https://www.lovetoride.net/usa?locale=en-US>



The cycling organization *Love to Ride* is again hosting a global cycling challenge for the month of September, “Cycle September.” This is an opportunity to earn some great prizes (including a brand new bike!), join/form a team and help them climb rankings compared to similarly-sized organizations, and push yourself to spend more time outside and on your bike during some absolutely beautiful fall days. And biking is a great way to add some exercise into your day while also making a positive environmental impact if you’re replacing automobile trips with bicycle ones.

Check out the [Love to Ride](#) website and register today! You can log your rides manually or have them upload automatically by linking your profile to certain mobile apps, and any rides you’ve already taken in September can be retroactively added.

## Earth Overshoot Day – Move the Date!

<https://www.overshootday.org/>

*Text taken from [EarthOverShootDay.org](https://www.overshootday.org/)*

Earth Overshoot Day marks the date when humanity’s demand for ecological resources and services in a given year exceeds what Earth can regenerate in that year. In 2021, it fell on July 29.



We know it can be overwhelming to think about the various impacts of global ecological overshoot such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and extreme weather events (to name a few). However, thriving lives within the means of our planet are not out of reach.

For 100 Days of Possibility, we're highlighting ways for each country, city, or business to ready themselves for a world increasingly defined by overshoot. These responses also #MoveTheDate of Earth Overshoot Day. Check out the solution-of-the-day, or explore solutions from 100 Days of Possibility that have already been unveiled (button below).

## 100 DAYS OF POSSIBILITY

Here are some of the “solutions of the day” posted so far at [OvershootDay.org](https://OvershootDay.org):

- Jul. 31: [Food Waste](#) (cutting global food waste in half would #MoveTheDate by 13 days)
- Aug. 2: [Bicycle Infrastructure](#) (increasing cycling by 35% → 9 days)
- Aug. 3: [Eating Local](#) (sourcing 80% of our food locally → 1.6 days)
- Aug. 5: [Plant-Based Diets](#) (replacing 50% of global meat consumption with plants → 7+ days)
- Aug. 7: [Give Clothing A Longer Life](#) (halving the ecological footprint of our clothing → 5 days)
- Aug. 8: [Energy-Efficient Household Appliances](#) (opting for more efficient appliances → 6 days)
- Aug. 14: [High-Speed Rail](#) (replacing 50% of air travel with high-speed rail → 1.8 days)
- Aug. 22: [Renewable Energy](#) (increasing from 39% to 75% renewable electricity → 26 days)
- Aug. 28: [Battery Storage](#) (complementing renewables with battery technology → 15 days)
- Aug. 31: [Air-Drying Laundry](#) (reducing clothes dryer usage by 75% → 1.3 days)
- Sep. 5: [Efficient Cooking](#) (reducing cooking energy by 1/3 in high-income regions → 0.9 days)
- Sep. 8: [Low-Carbon Concrete](#) (using already-existing resource-efficient concrete → 2.4 days)

## [River Runner: Where Does A Raindrop Go?](https://river-runner.samlearner.com/)

<https://river-runner.samlearner.com/>

Have you ever wondered what exactly happens to the raindrops that fall where you are, especially as you see water flowing away after a larger downpour? Sure, much of the rain we get soaks into the earth and is taken up by plants as their respiration/transpiration forms a part of the water cycle, but what of the drops that make their way to Swan Creek, the Sugar River, or Badger Mill Creek? Perhaps you know a little bit about watersheds and your local streams and lakes, and there's a pretty good chance you've learned water from Dane County ends up in the Mississippi River and from there the Gulf of Mexico. But beyond that, how much do you

really know about the path a drop of water follows after it falls and joins up with millions of other drops in lakes, rivers, or streams?

Well, wonder no more! A new web project called [River Runner](#), using data from the U.S. Geological Survey and the National Hydrography Dataset, allows you to select any point in the United States and follow the path of a raindrop that flows into the nearest body of water. Check out this fascinating web tool and follow along as your raindrop travels across the country!

## **Help Keep Our Streets Leaf-Free This Fall!**

*From Claudia Guy, City of Fitchburg Environmental Engineer*

Did you know leaves that collect on our streets every fall can harm our natural waterbodies? More than 50% of the annual amount of phosphorus in urban stormwater can come from leaves in the street. Too much phosphorus can lead to toxic algae blooms, low oxygen levels and green murky waters, none of which are good for animals living in the water or those of us who use it for recreation. Timely removal of street leaf litter prior to a rain event can reduce the amount of phosphorus in urban stormwater by 80% compared to no leaf removal.

You can help! Join us in keeping streets leaf-free before it rains this fall. To encourage others to keep leaves out of the street, request a free yard sign by sending an email to [Claudia.Guy@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:Claudia.Guy@fitchburgwi.gov) with the subject, "Leaf-Free Streets Sign Request." Thank you for joining this movement to protect our waters!





## Next Shred/Recycling Event Set for November 6

<https://www.fitchburgwi.gov/2717/Recycling-Day-Event>

Mark your calendars. The next City of Fitchburg Recycling Day Event (including shredding and recycling of confidential paperwork, as well as electronics recycling) will take place on Saturday, November 6 from 8:00am-11:00am. If you're looking to get rid of items in the meantime, please consider the options below:

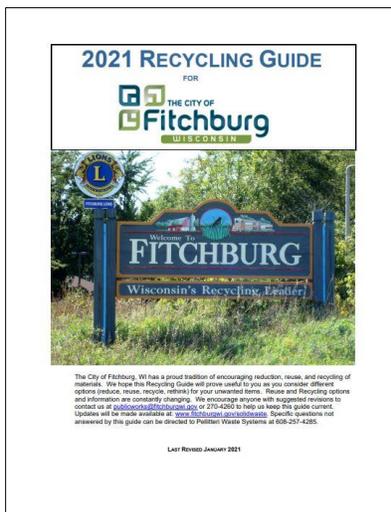
### Confidential Paper Recycling

- If you have access to a paper shredder, please shred your confidential paper items, place them in a clear plastic bag, and put the bag into your curbside recycling cart. These will be removed by hand once they reach the sorting facility and will be recycled. Please note that if you do not place paper into a clear plastic bag, it won't be possible to separate the material for recycling. (For more information on how the recycling process works at the local Pellitteri Material Recovery Facility, please check out this link! <https://youtu.be/Vwch1gwUgQk>)
- If you do not have access to a paper shredder, Pellitteri offers on-site paper shredding for a fee. Please call Pellitteri at 605-257-4285 for more information.
- If the paperwork that you are trying to recycle is not confidential (for example, magazines, junk mail, etc), please place this directly into your recycling cart.

### Electronics Recycling

- Please take your electronics recyclables to Resource Solutions' Madison location. You can drop off without appointment, anytime during our regular business hours: Monday-Friday: 8:00a-4:00p Saturday: 8:00 – Noon. This facility is located at 5493 Express Cir, Madison. Please note, there is a fee to recycle many electronic items (also true for Fitchburg's Recycling Day Event as well). <http://recyclethatstuff.com/>

We look forward to seeing you in November!



*Still have questions? Check out the Fitchburg Recycling Guide for a more detailed, local rundown of recycling tips.*

## Upcoming Events

### Fitchburg Bike Rodeo

*Bike Fitchburg is hosting their first Bike Rodeo at the New Fountains Apartments in Fitchburg! Come learn about bike safety, practice your riding skills on practice courses, and get your bike and gear checked for fit and safety. This event is for kids of all ages, and parents are encouraged to come and learn as well, so they can help reinforce the skills and tips after the event.*

**Saturday, September 11, 10:00am-1:00pm**  
**New Fountains Apartments, 5401 Williamsburg Way**  
**<https://bikefitchburg.org/>**

### Hispanic Heritage Month Proclamation

*Join Mayor Aaron Richardson as he announces the observance of Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 through October 15. The presentation will take place in the City Hall Council Chambers at 5520 Lacy Rd (masks will be required), and it can also be viewed virtually via Zoom and other streaming options. See the link below for details.*

**Monday, September 14, 7:30pm**  
**<https://www.fitchburgwi.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1759>**

### UW Nelson Institute Weston Roundtable Lecture

*Join Marina Silva, former Minister of the Environment in Brazil, as she talks about the challenges facing groups seeking to save the Amazon rainforest and indigenous people who call it home.*

**Thursday, September 16, 4:15pm-5:30pm** (Zoom presentation)  
**<https://nelson.wisc.edu/events/weston-roundtable-how-to-help-protect-the-amazon/>**

**Presentations in the Park - Wisconsin Wildlife Rehabilitation: Caring for Sick and Injured Animals**

*Jackie Sandberg, Wildlife Training Supervisor at Dane County Humane Society's (DCHS) Wildlife Center. Learn about wildlife rehabilitation in Wisconsin and how professional staff at DCHS's Wildlife Center help over 4,000 sick and injured wild animals every year.*

***Thursday, September 23, 5:30pm-7:00pm***

***Lussier Family Heritage Center, 3101 Lake Farm Road, Madison, 53711***

***[Click here for details and to register in advance](#)***

**Everyone's Earth: Conversations on Race and the Environment**

*Join us for a conversation with those leading the nation's effort to address racism and the outdoors. Together, we will explore ways we can increase diversity and equity as it relates to outdoor accessibility and engagement. Leaders will also showcase a recently developed Anti-Racism in the Outdoors Resource Guide.*

***Thursday, September 30, 11:30am-1:00pm*** (Zoom presentation)

***<https://nelson.wisc.edu/events/everyones-earth-voices-national-leadership-anti-racism-outdoors/>***

### 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](mailto:phil.grupe@fitchburgwi.gov) or (608) 270-4259, if you have any questions, comments, and/or suggestions for future Green E-News topics.

