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October 6 is Energy Efficiency Day in Fitchburg!

<https://energyefficiencyday.org/>

Since 2016, the first Wednesday in October has been named National Energy Efficiency Day in the United States. Energy efficiency companies and advocacy groups, as well as cities and states around the country, mark this observance as a chance to promote the adoption of greater energy efficiency measures, both to reduce energy needs and associated climate change-enhancing emissions and to help reduce energy bills for homeowners and businesses.



This year, for the first time, Fitchburg is joining dozens of states and cities around the United States officially recognizing October 6 as Energy Efficiency Day. Read the [proclamation here](#).

As part of its 2019 [Clean Energy Resolution](#), the City of Fitchburg pledged not just to reduce emissions through greater use of renewable energy, but to target energy efficiency as a chief means of decreasing energy needs, both for the municipality and the broader community.

Energy efficiency is defined as using less energy to perform the same tasks, which means things like replacing incandescent or fluorescent bulbs with LEDs; using natural lighting and ventilation; increasing your home's insulation to reduce summer and winter HVAC usage; buying more efficient HVAC appliances to reduce energy usage; or maximizing your vehicle's efficiency (e.g. properly inflating tires or buying a vehicle with better fuel economy).

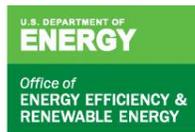
Learn more about energy efficiency at the U.S. Department of Energy's "[Energy Saver](#)" website, or about Energy Efficiency Day on the [official website](#), and use the hashtag #EEDay to post to social media or track related messages this coming Wednesday.

Tips for reducing your energy usage and associated bills abound online; to get started, check out the lists at [EnergySage.com](#) and [EnergyEfficiencyDay.org](#).

Energy Awareness Month

<https://www.energy.gov/eere/femp/energy-awareness-month>

In addition to Energy Efficiency Day this Wednesday, October represents Energy Awareness Month in the United States, promoted by the U.S. Department of Energy and throughout other federal agencies. As winter approaches, and with it, some of the most energy-intensive months for transportation and buildings, this is a great time to think about your own energy usage and look into ways to reduce your overall impact and energy-related costs. Check out the U.S. DOE’s “Energy Saver” brochure on tips for saving money and energy at home, at https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/energy_savers.pdf.



Federal agencies are helping to combat the climate crisis by implementing energy-efficient projects and practices that focus on climate adaptation and mitigation through building decarbonization, resilience, and fleet electrification.



LEADING BY EXAMPLE

ENERGY AWARENESS MONTH
October 2021



For resources and services that can help you implement resilient, efficient, sustainable, and secure energy and water management practices and projects, visit [energy.gov/eere/femp](https://www.energy.gov/eere/femp).



Energy Efficiency Needed to Achieve State Goals

<https://www.aceee.org/press-release/2021/09/report-states-climate-efforts-will-be-more-costly-less-equitable-without>

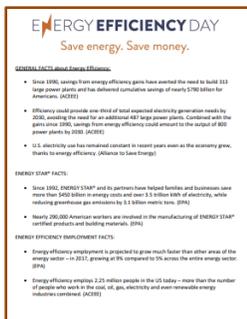
The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) released a report late last month titled “[Meeting State Climate Goals: Energy Efficiency Will Be Critical.](#)” As the title suggests, ACEEE found that while many states have set climate targets with varying levels of ambition, too many are overlooking how they can incorporate energy efficiency into their strategies for reaching those targets. Twenty-four states—as well as the District of Columbia—have emissions-reduction goals, but 8 of those goals don’t mention energy efficiency at all, and only 2 states (Washington and Virginia) have set specific efficiency targets as part of their overall slate of goals.

The [International Energy Agency](#) has also identified efficiency as a major component of net-zero climate goals, and to paraphrase *Natural Capitalism* author Amory Lovins, “the cheapest and cleanest kilowatt-hour is the one you never use.” Efficiency is already an important part of our overall energy landscape, with Wisconsin’s “[Focus on Energy](#)” efficiency rebate program delivering over \$1 billion in benefits to the state over the past decade, and the more we can implement further efficiency gains, the less carbon-free energy development will be required to replace existing energy sources.

Energy Efficiency Resources

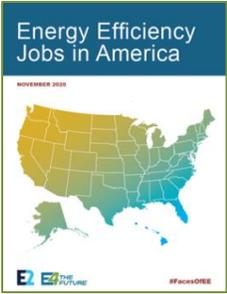
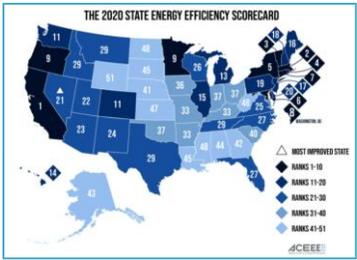
<https://energyefficiencyday.org/learn-more/>

Check out these resources for more information and tips related to energy efficiency!



Fast Facts on energy efficiency, from [EnergyEfficiencyDay.org](#)

State energy efficiency scorecard, from [ACEEE](#)



Energy Efficiency 2020 jobs report, from [E4 The Future](#)

Home energy tips, from ACEEE's [SmarterHouse.org](#)



Porcelain Berry: Look Out For This Noxious Plant

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/Invasives/PorcelainBerryFactSheet.PDF>

Invasive plants can be a headache for home gardeners and landscapes, a danger for local wildlife and ecosystems, and an expensive problem to maintain for city and state agencies. Considered a noxious (harmful to crops, native ecosystems, or humans) weed, porcelain berry climbs other plants as a vine and can reach heights of 25 feet, sometimes even suffocating its host plant as it grows. While similar in some ways to wild grapes, the berries look slightly different than grapes, and cutting a stem open reveals a white pith (the center of the stem) as opposed to the brown pith of grapes.



Read more about this highly invasive plant on [this DNR flyer](#), and about invasive species in general on the [department's "invasives" website](#). If you find any porcelain berry, report it to invasive-species@wisconsin.gov.

Rain Reserve Sale at Garver Feed Mill

<https://rainreserve.com/madison>

The 2021 Madison Compost Bin and Rain Barrel Sale will be held on Saturday, October 23rd from 8am - 12pm at the Garver Feed Mill. A limited supply is available and the only way to guaranty availability is pre-ordering before Friday, October 15th. All pre-orders will be available for pick-up at the truckload sale event. SPECIAL NOTE: Due to limited supplies, only composters and rain barrel diverter kits (*buy your own barrel*) will be available at this year's truckload sale.

[Click here](#) for assistance deciding which rain barrel diverter kit is right for you!

Upcoming Events

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Event

Fitchburg is hosting a hazardous household waste drop-off event on Saturday, October 23 from 8am-12pm, at the parking lot on Marketplace Drive behind Funk's Pub and Oak Bank. This is an opportunity to properly dispose of paints, household chemicals, and other hazardous household waste products that shouldn't be placed in curbside garbage bins. This event is being coordinated with Dane County Clean Sweep, the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District, and the Madison Area Municipal Storm Water Partnership (MAMSWaP).

Saturday, October 23, 8:00am-12:00pm

Parking Lot on Marketplace Dr behind Funk's Pub and Oak Bank

<https://www.fitchburgwi.gov/2726/Clean-Sweep-Event>

Fall Recycling Day and Shred Event

The Fall Recycling Day Event is scheduled for Saturday, November 6 at the City Hall Campus (5520 Lacy Road). The event will include confidential paper shredding and recycling, electronics recycling, and MedDrop for safe disposal of prescription drugs. Visit the website below for a complete list of items that will be accepted.

Saturday November 6, 8:00am-11:00am

<http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/22169/Recycling-Event-Details>

UW Nelson Institute Jordahl Public Lands Lecture

We invite you to join us for a conversation with Yosemite National Park Ranger Shelton Johnson, who will be joining us virtually to discuss the stories we tell and how those stories are critical to better diversity, equity, and inclusion in our national parks.

Thursday, October 14, 6:30pm-7:30pm (in person and on Zoom)

<https://nelson.wisc.edu/events/jordahl-public-lands-lecture-with-shelton-johnson/>

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<http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/list.aspx> > Green Fitchburg

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<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.

