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I'm Dreaming of a Green Christmas

<https://www.greenamerica.org/magazine/go-green-holidays>

The December holiday season can generate a tremendous amount of waste, from excess energy usage of holiday decorations, wrapping paper, and packaging and shipping miles associated with purchasing gifts from far away. But with some careful planning and slight changes, your happy holidays can also be waste-reducing!

Here are just a few ideas, from Green America's "[go green for the holidays](#)" lists and elsewhere, on what you can do to lower the impact of your end-of-year celebrations:



Green Holiday Ideas:

- **Minimize/Rethink Gifts:** Agreeing to exchange fewer gifts, or giving experiences or homemade items instead of material gifts, can significantly reduce
- **Greener Wrapping Paper:** Gift wrap kept in good condition can be reused in future years, and reusable/recyclable boxes and wrapping materials are also eco-friendly alternatives.
- **Secondhand Gifts:** "Re-gifting" has become somewhat of a cultural faux-pas, but a gift needn't be brand new in order to be thoughtful, personal, and appreciated. Giving an item purchased secondhand or that you no longer need is a great alternative that helps to avoid the use of new materials/packaging.
- **Choose LED lights:** Using LED lights instead of incandescent saves a lot of energy, and this is true for holiday lights as well; these lights also typically have a much longer lifespan.
- **Christmas Tofurkey?** A meat-free diet is the least carbon-intensive choice, but even less (or less-eco-intense) meat can make a huge difference in emissions generated.
- **Shop Local:** Whether gifts, decorations, or food, buying local both supports your local economy and reduces vehicle miles and associated emissions.
- **Use Plant-Based Glitter:** Most glitter is plastic and can linger in the environment for a very long time. If glitter is a must, look for biodegradable, plant-based options.

Ho-Ho-Holiday Recycling

https://www.fitchburgwi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/16137/Holiday_Recycle_list?bidId=

<http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/11799/HolidayRecycleListBilingual?bidId=>



Extra packaging and materials from holiday celebrations and gift exchanges can leave your refuse and recycling carts overflowing. Americans typically generate 25% more waste during the holidays. Much of your holiday packaging can be recycled curbside in your recycling cart or dropped off at the Fitchburg Recycling Drop Off Site at 2373 S. Fish Hatchery Rd. Read on to learn more about what can and cannot be reused or recycled:

- **Wrapping paper** can be recycled in your blue recycling cart as long as it's paper-based. You must remove all ribbon and bows. **Foil-type or plastic-based** wrapping paper is **not** recyclable and should either be reused or discarded in your green refuse carts. If you're uncertain what type of paper you have, scrunch it into a ball. If the gift wrap remains compressed, it's likely paper-based and can be recycled; if it springs back quickly, the gift wrap should be thrown away.
- **Wrapping paper tubes**, along with paper towel and toilet tissue cores, can be recycled in your blue recycling cart.
- **Tissue paper** is **not** recyclable and should either be reused or discarded in your green refuse carts.
- **Greeting cards and envelopes** that are paper-based and non-foil can be recycled in your blue cart, but non-paper items such as metal foil and photographs should be removed and discarded in your green refuse cart.
- **Cardboard and paperboard gift boxes** can be reused or recycled in your blue recycling cart or taken to the Fitchburg Recycling Drop Off Site and placed in the cardboard recycling dumpsters. Remove any excess tape or ribbons prior to recycling, and flatten boxes to assist with the sorting and recycling process.
- **Holiday lights and extension cords** can be dropped off at Fitchburg City Hall Lobby (5520 Lacy Rd.) 24/hours per day through January 31, 2022. Residents should remove any bulbs larger than marble-size and recycle those separately at participating stores. Consider buying LED lights to replace your old or broken lights to save energy throughout the holiday season!
- **Holiday Trees (real)** – Holiday tree collection will occur during the weeks of January 3, 2022 and January 17, 2022. Please place your tree behind the curb with the stump facing the street by Monday at 6:30am during those two weeks. These trees get

chipped and then made available to residents as wood chips and compost at the Recycling Drop Off Site.

- **Holiday Trees (artificial)** – Artificial trees are not recyclable. Buy a Refuse Tag and set out with refuse. If the tree is in good condition, consider saving for reuse or donating to St. Vincent De Paul or Goodwill.
- **Wreaths (real)** – Remove the branches from framing. Take both to the Recycling Drop Off Site at S. Fish Hatchery Rd (2373 S. Fish Hatchery Rd). Put boughs in “yard waste” and metal or steel framing in “scrap metal.” The branches can be composted at home or be placed at the curb during the next brush collection day.
- **White block polystyrene**, also known as Styrofoam, can be taken to the white polystyrene recycling dumpster at the Fitchburg Recycling Drop Off Site.
- **Batteries** – Most batteries are collected for recycling by retailers that sell such battery types, but some must be taken to specific disposal sites or should be disposed of with household waste. See the [2021 Fitchburg Recycling Guide](#) and the WI DNR [Household Battery Recycling](#) info sheet to learn about safe battery disposal. *Note: Check with specific locations if you wish to drop off alkaline batteries for collection. Some may accept these batteries, but otherwise they should be disposed of with household waste.*
- **Ribbon** is not recyclable and should either be reused or discarded.
- **Bubble wrap** can be reused, and while it can also sometimes be recycled, it should never be placed in your blue recycling bin. Check grocery stores and other locations that accept plastic bags and film for recycling, to see if they accept bubble wrap as well.
- **Ornaments** are not recyclable and should be either reused or discarded.
- **Garland** is not recyclable and should either be reused or discarded.
- **Tinsel** is not recyclable and should either be reused or discarded.
- Visit www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste to view Fitchburg’s Holiday Recycling Guide, which is available in English and Spanish.



Item	Recyclable?	Comments to Reduce Waste
Batteries	Yes. See Fitchburg Recycling Guide for locations that accept batteries, and which types, for recycling.	Purchase rechargeable batteries.
Cardboard	Yes. Recycle in blue cart. For excess cardboard, please take advantage of Unlimited Recycling by placing additional recyclables in a clear plastic bag (up to 32-gallon and no more than 50 pounds) and put next to the recycling cart. Additional recyclables will be collected at no additional charge. Cans also be taken to the Recycling Drop-off Site at 2373 S. Fish Hatchery Road.	
Christmas cards & envelopes	Yes. Paper cards are recyclable in your blue cart. No. Foil cards/envelopes and photos are not recyclable (put in Green cart)	
Garland	No. Not recyclable. Put in green refuse cart.	Consider reusing.
Gift Boxes	Yes. Recycle in Blue cart	Reuse.
Gift Wrap	Yes. Paper gift wrap can be recycled in Blue cart. No. Foil gift wrap is not recyclable. Place in Green refuse cart.	Consider making your own gift wrap out of newspaper or decorated paper bags, reusing gift wrap, and using gift wrap made with recycled paper.
Gift wrap tubes	Yes. Recycle in Blue cart	
Lights (strings of decorative lights)	Yes. For a limited time this holiday season, drop off at City Hall, 5520 Lacy Road. Container will be located in main lobby entrance.	
Ornaments	No. Not recyclable. Put in Green refuse cart.	If unbroken, consider donating to Saint Vincent De Paul or Goodwill.
Gift Tissue paper	Yes. Recycle in Blue cart	Reuse.
Ribbons	No. Not recyclable. Put in Green refuse cart.	Reuse and/or use fabric ribbon that can be reused.
Styrofoam (PS) blocks	Yes. Recycle at the City of Fitchburg's Recycling Drop Off Drop Off Site, 2373 S. Fish Hatchery Rd.	
Styrofoam (PS) packing peanuts	No. Not recyclable. Put in Green refuse cart.	
Tinsel (string or small strands)	No. Not recyclable. Put in Green refuse cart.	Consider reusing.
Trees (artificial or flocked)	No. Not recyclable. Call Pettleri at 608-257-4285 any weekday before 4:00pm to pay for and schedule a pickup.	If tree in good condition, consider donating to Saint Vincent De Paul or Goodwill.
Trees (real)	Yes. Recycle curbside during 2 scheduled pickups in January. All decorations and other material must be removed.	Use for bird shelter during the winter, in the Spring remove the branches and set the branches and trunk curbside for brush pick-up.
Wreaths (real)	Yes. Remove the branches from framing. Take to the Fitchburg Recycling Drop-off Site at 2373 S. Fish Hatchery Rd and put boughs in the Yardwaste area and metal or steel framing in the Scrap Metal area	Compost branches



Item	Recyclable?	Como Reducir los Residuos
Baterias	Consulte la Guia de reciclaje de Fitchburg para conocer los lugares que aceptan baterias y qué tipos de reciclaje.	Compre baterias recargables
Carton	Reciclar en el carro azul	
Tarjetas de Navidad y sobres	Papel: Reciclar en el carro azul Tarjetas de papel de aluminio / sobres y folios no pueden ser reciclados (poner en el carro verde)	
Guirnalda	No reciclable (poner en el carro verde)	Considere la posibilidad de reutilizar
Cajas de Regalo	Reciclar en el carro azul	Reutilizar
Papel de Regalo	Papel: Reciclar en el carro azul Papel de regalo (aluminio) no es reciclable (poner en el carro verde)	Considere la posibilidad de hacer su propio papel de regalo de papel de periódico o bolsas de papel decorados, reutilizar papel de regalo, y el uso de papel de regalo hecho con papel reciclado
Tubos de papel de regalo	Papel: Reciclar en el carro azul	
Luces (cadenas de luces decorativas)	Reciclar por un tiempo limitado dejara en Ayuntamiento - Contenedor sera ubicado en la entrada principal	
Adornos	No reciclable (poner en el carro verde)	Si son intactos, considere hacer una donación a San Vicente de Paul o Goodwill.
papel de seda de regalo	Reciclar en el carro azul	Reutilizar
Cintas	No reciclable (poner en el carro verde)	Reutilización y/o utilizar cinta de tela que se puede reutilizar.
Bloques de espuma de poliestireno (PS)	Reciclar - Dejar en el Centro de Reciclaje - 2373 S. Fish Hatchery Rd.	
Espuma de poliestireno (PS), los cachuetos de embalaje	Dejar para reutilizar en Studio Paran 2051 Winnebago St., Madison	
Orapel (cadena o pequeñas hebras)	No reciclable (poner en el carro verde)	Considere la posibilidad de reutilizar
Arboles artificiales y los flocados	No reciclable - comprar una etiqueta de basura y se establece con el carro verde	Si son intactos, considere hacer una donación a San Vicente de Paul o Goodwill.
Arboles (real)	Poner en la acera para ser reciclado durante los 2 dias para recoger en Enero. Todo material de decoración se debe quitar	Utilice como refugio de aves durante el invierno, y en la primavera eliminar las ramas y tronco, y poner en la acera para el carro que recoge las ramas.
Coronas (real)	Quitar las ramas del corona - deja en el centro de reciclaje en S. Fish Hatchery Rd y poner ramas en "residuo de jardineria" y el metal o acero parte en "basura"	Ramas de compost (abono)

Study Finds Tremendous Solar Potential in Wisconsin

https://madison.com/wsj/news/local/environment/untapped-potential-rooftop-solar-could-meet-2-3-of-wisconsins-electricity-needs-study-finds/article_d0fa3bcb-724a-5d58-9725-284ddd0ff846.html

Energy consulting firm Cadmus recently completed a study on solar energy potential in Wisconsin, in coordination with the state’s Focus on Energy rebate program. The [final report](#) reveals an optimistic outlook for solar energy in the Badger State. Cadmus’ report showed that energy from rooftop solar installations could provide almost two-thirds of the state’s overall electricity needs, generating more electricity than was generated by fossil fuels last year. Current market limitations might result in only a small fraction of that potential being realized, but continued battery technology development and changes to state “net metering” policies that credit homeowners for excess solar production could help the state come closer to achieving that potential.



As has previously been shared, multiple opportunities are available to homeowners interested in installing rooftop solar panels on their homes, from MG&E’s [shared solar](#) program to group-buy opportunities from [MadiSUN](#) and [Legacy Solar Co-op](#), to [Focus on Energy](#) rebates, and more. Fitchburg has been designated a [SolSmart](#) community by the U.S. Department of Energy, with special recognition for simplifying the inspection process; visit the City’s [solar resources](#) page for more information and to begin your own solar journey today.

2022 Fitchburg Solid Waste Calendar

http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/22674/Solid_Waste_Calendar_2022

The 2022 Fitchburg Solid Waste calendar has been released, and you can find it on the City’s website in downloadable and printable format at [this link](#). The calendar is a helpful reminder for which weeks are trash-only vs also including recycling pickup, as well as yard waste and brush collection dates. Note that the first and third weeks of January are designated holiday tree collection weeks, so if you purchased a live tree this winter, set it outside behind your curb line on Monday the 3rd or 17th to have it collected.

Fitchburg Solid Waste and Recycling Calendar 2022											
January			February			March			April		
May			June			July			August		
September			October			November			December		
<p>WEEKLY SCHEDULE</p> <p>Monday: Trash and Recycling (except 1st and 3rd weeks)</p> <p>Tuesday: Yard Waste and Brush (except 1st and 3rd weeks)</p> <p>Wednesday: Recycling (except 1st and 3rd weeks)</p> <p>Thursday: No collection</p> <p>Friday: No collection</p> <p>Saturday: No collection</p> <p>Sunday: No collection</p> <p>HOLIDAY TREE COLLECTION</p> <p>Monday, January 3rd and 17th: Holiday tree collection</p> <p>WINTER TIRE COLLECTION</p> <p>Monday, January 3rd and 17th: Winter tire collection</p> <p>RECYCLING SCHEDULE</p> <p>Monday, Wednesday, Friday: Recycling (except 1st and 3rd weeks)</p> <p>Tuesday: Yard Waste and Brush (except 1st and 3rd weeks)</p> <p>Thursday: No collection</p> <p>Friday: No collection</p> <p>Saturday: No collection</p> <p>Sunday: No collection</p> <p>YARD WASTE AND BRUSH COLLECTION</p> <p>Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday: Yard Waste and Brush (except 1st and 3rd weeks)</p> <p>Monday, Wednesday, Friday: No collection</p> <p>Saturday: No collection</p> <p>Sunday: No collection</p> <p>TRASH AND RECYCLING COLLECTION</p> <p>Monday, Wednesday, Friday: Trash and Recycling (except 1st and 3rd weeks)</p> <p>Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday: No collection</p>											

Upcoming Events

2021 Holiday Season Calendar

Hannukah: Nov. 28 – Dec. 6

St. Nicholas Day: Dec. 6

Christmas: Dec. 25

Kwanzaa: Dec. 26 – Jan. 1

CPEP Seminar – Fingerprinting Changes in the Global Water Cycle over the Common Era

Speaker: Bronwen Konecky, Assistant Professor, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Washington University

Recent global syntheses of paleoclimate proxy data from the Common Era have provided important context for how global temperature varied prior to, and after, the industrial revolution. This presentation shares a new effort to evaluate changes in the global water cycle during the Common Era through proxies that track the stable oxygen and hydrogen isotopic composition of environmental waters

Tuesday December 7, 4:00pm-5:00pm

<https://nelson.wisc.edu/events/weston-roundtable-effectiveness-and-equity-of-climate-policies-targeting-natural-gas-systems/>

Weston Roundtable – Effectiveness and Equity of Climate Policies Targeting Natural Gas Systems

Speaker: Morgan Edwards, Assistant Professor, La Follette School of Public Affairs, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The Weston Roundtable is made possible by a generous donation from Roy F. Weston, a highly accomplished UW-Madison alumnus. Designed to promote a robust understanding of sustainability science, engineering, and policy, these interactive lectures are co-sponsored by the Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment (SAGE), the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and the Office of Sustainability.

Thursday December 9, 4:15pm-5:15pm

<https://nelson.wisc.edu/events/weston-roundtable-effectiveness-and-equity-of-climate-policies-targeting-natural-gas-systems/>

WI Salt Awareness Week



Tune in from 12:30-1pm daily as area experts dive into #TheTrueCostOfSalt on our drinking water, pets, freshwater ecosystems, and more. All WI Salt Awareness Week talks will be livestreamed on YouTube.

January 24-28, 2022

<https://www.wisaltwise.com/Take-Action/Salt-Awareness-Week>

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- 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 (608) 270-4259, if you have any questions, comments, and/or suggestions for future Green E-News topics.

