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## Fitchburg Sets Budget Priorities for Coming Years

<https://www.fitchburgwi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/23762/2023---2032-Adopted-CIP>

Fitchburg's Common Council approved Resolution R-135-22 on Tuesday, July 26, setting the City's capital project budget priorities for the next decade. Planned CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) items include spending on new solar projects, lower- or zero-emission fleet vehicles, community inclusivity and equity measures, expanded bicycle infrastructure, water quality improvements, and increased park lands. Together with the March-adopted [ARPA/TID Investment Plan](#), this CIP budget outlines Fitchburg's spending priorities for the coming years. Reach out to your alders if you'd like to see other priorities highlighted in the future!

## New Federal Investments in Efficiency, Climate Solutions

<https://www.evergreenaction.com/blog/the-inflation-reduction-act-is-a-breakthrough>

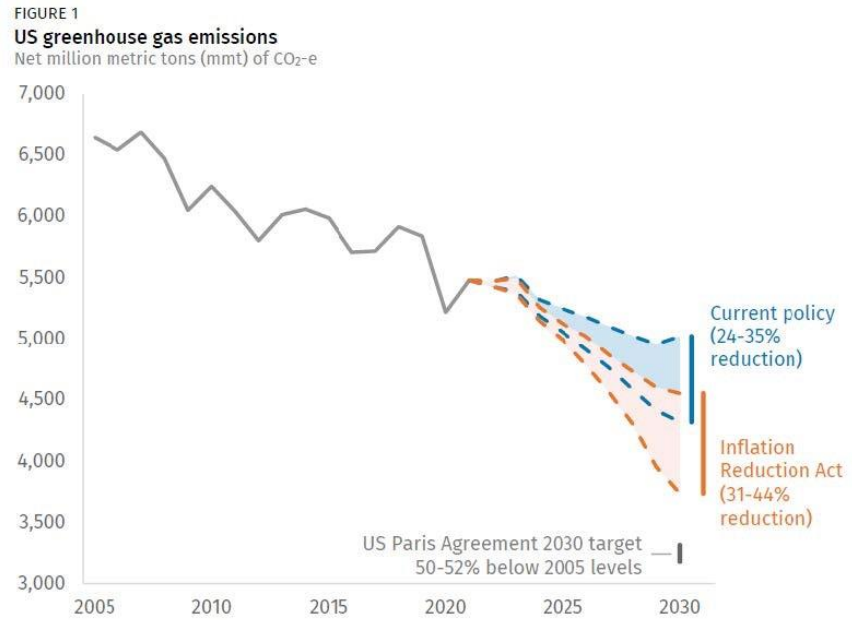
On August 16, President Biden signed the *Inflation Reduction Act*, a bill laying out nearly \$500 billion in expenditures and over \$750 billion in projected revenue and savings. The majority of the spending in this bill is focused on energy and climate measures, from clean electricity tax credits and investments to lower- and zero-emissions vehicles to drought and climate resilience, as well as amending the Clean Air Act to restore the Environmental Protection Agency's authority to regulate carbon dioxide as an atmospheric pollutant.

Initial projections suggest that this bill could increase the United States' carbon dioxide emissions reductions another 10-15% by 2030, compared to 2005 levels (emissions today are already [20% lower than 2005](#) and continuing to trend downward), putting a [40% reduction well](#)

[within reach](#) (the US committed to a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 as part of the Paris Climate Accords). Press releases from various national environmental organizations hint at [general optimism](#) regarding this bill and its potential to help reduce our emissions; and cooperation between various levels of government, private organizations, and individual consumers will be needed to help achieve the promise of this bill and push the country towards its greenhouse gas reduction commitments over the coming decades.

While specifics are yet to be determined, energy industry groups expect many Americans to be able to take advantage of tax credits and rebates for actions that reduce their energy use and increase reliance on renewable energy sources. Keep an eye out for more details, and check out [this initial summary](#) from CNBC on some of the incentives you might be eligible for.

With all this said, provisions for increased fossil fuel extraction have [sparked concerns](#) that the bill may exacerbate inequities related to energy and energy-related pollution, even as it seeks to address economic and health-related disparities. It takes time to understand the full impacts of legislation like this, but it serves as a point of optimism we can indeed act on climate concerns, while still reminding us of the importance of ensuring our solutions generate benefits that serve everyone.



Source: Rhodium Group. The range reflects uncertainty around future fossil fuel prices, economic growth, and clean technology costs. It corresponds with high, central, and low emissions scenarios detailed in [Taking Stock 2022](#).

## World/National Cleanup Day: September 17 and 18

<https://www.worldcleanupday.org/> and <https://www.nationalcleanupday.org/>

*What if everyone picked up just one piece of litter?*

This question sparked a playful game between two hiking buddies, which slowly attracted more participants until it had created a national movement for helping to reduce the amount of litter in our streets and our forests and beaches. National Cleanup Day, on September 18, is a nationwide effort to encourage all Americans to partner in a trash cleanup movement,

protecting wildlife and ecosystems while helping to beautify our shared spaces. Learn more about this annual event at <https://www.nationalcleanupday.org/>.

World Cleanup Day, begun in 2008 with 50,000 volunteers cleaning up trash around Estonia, is a global movement, also dedicated to unleashing the power of individuals working together to create a positive impact on the world. Held every year on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in September, this year World Cleanup Day is on Saturday September 17. Check out the event site at <https://www.worldcleanupday.org/> and create or sign up for an event this fall.

## National Wildlife Federation Gardening Photo Contest

<https://gfwphotocontest.nwf.org/>

The National Wildlife Federation is hosting a photo contest for gardeners and garden enthusiasts, the 2022 Garden for Wildlife Photo Contest. The photo contest invites participants to submit their photos in 5 different categories, with entry fees supporting NWF's mission and various prizes available for the best photos. Get outside, practice your photography skills, and submit your best garden photos by October 16!



## Get Outside This Fall for Cycle September

<https://www.lovetoride.net/usa/pages/info?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 or cash towards a vacation!), 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 registering before September 1 enters you in a drawing for a new bicycle.

## Next Shred/Recycling Event Set for October 15

<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, October 15 from 8:00AM-11:00AM. *Check out the City's Recycling-Day page ([linked here](#)) for information on the event, any possible changes, and updates as the date approaches.* 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 October!

## MadiSUN Solar Group Buy

<https://madisunsolar.com>

Looking for an opportunity to get solar panels installed at your home? Renew Wisconsin's MadiSUN solar group-buy program is still taking signups through the end of August, stacking the scaled savings from a group solar purchase with a 26% Federal Investment Tax Credit you can receive for installing solar panels on your home. Visit

<https://madisunsolar.com/group-buy-for-homes/> to learn more and sign up today!

You can also work with MadiSUN to receive grants for installing solar panels on your business. Learn more at <https://madisunsolar.com/solar-for-business/>.



## MMSD Forced Main Relief Project – Feedback Wanted

Text selected from <https://www.madsewer.org/project/pumping-station-17-force-main-relief-phase-2>

*The Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District's Pumping Station 17 helps convey sanitary waste from the City of Verona and City of Madison to the Nine Springs Treatment Plant in a pressurized sewer known as a force main. This force main was constructed in 1995.*

*Due to historical and projected growth in these areas and the fact that local pumping stations will soon reach their capacity, a second force main – known as a relief force main – is being constructed. The first phase of the force main relief project was completed in 2021. The second phase will complete the relief force main. Once complete, this relief force main will increase capacity to provide safe and reliable conveyance of wastewater while protecting public health and the environment.*

*The Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District has selected a route for the Pump Station 17 Rehabilitation & Force Main Relief Phase 2 project. The project design team selected the route after gaining input at the February 23, 2022 meeting, reviewing public feedback, consulting with stakeholder groups, and weighing considerations.*

MMSD held the first two of four planned meetings on February 23 and August 24 of this year and is seeking feedback from residents about potential corridor improvements. Find video stream links, a survey link (*responses collected through September 7 at 6:00pm*), and further project information on the main the project page at

<https://www.madsewer.org/project/pumping-station-17-force-main-relief-phase-2/>

## Upcoming Events

### **Sustain Dane Educational and Networking Event**

**Tuesday September 14, 4:00-6:30pm**

*Join Sustain Dane for their September networking event at Hop Haus on Seminole Hwy, after an MG&E-hosted tour of the O'Brien Solar Farm at Seminole Hwy and Lacy Rd.*

**O'Brien Solar Fields at 4:00pm, Hop Haus at 5:30pm**

*RSVP to Steve Whayland at [swhayland@tds.net](mailto:swhayland@tds.net), and look to the [Green Fitchburg](#) page for an upcoming flyer with full details*

### **Nelson Institute Speaker Events**

*Check out listed events at the University of Wisconsin's Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies as they welcome various speakers to campus this fall:*

**<https://nelson.wisc.edu/events/>**

### **Fall Electronics Recycling and Confidential Paper Shredding Event**

**Saturday October 15, 8:00am – 11:00am**

*The Fall Recycling Day Event is scheduled for Saturday, October 15 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 and updates.*

**Fitchburg Civic Campus, 5520 Lacy Rd**

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

### **Sustain Dane Summit**

*Join Sustain Dane and the local sustainability community for the 2022 summit, themed "Building our Social Change Ecosystem." Highlighted by keynote speaker Deepa Iyer, this year's event will explore the various roles we can all fill in the "ecosystem" that is the movement to create lasting sustainable change.*



**Friday, November 4**

**Monona Terrace Community & Convention Center**

**<https://sustaindane.org/summit/>**

### 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.

