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Dane County EV Charging Grant Round 2 – apply by 9/30

<https://www.daneclimateaction.org/initiatives/Charge-Up-Dane-Co>

The Dane County Office of Energy and Climate Change, along with Fitchburg, other neighboring municipalities, and non-governmental partners, is collaborating on a grant program to expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure throughout the county. The effort was awarded \$13.2 million in funding from the 2022 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which will be used to close charging network gaps where investment has been limited.

After a successful first round of site-host applications in June, funding still remains for additional EV charging site hosts, so a second round was opened up in late August. Applications to host a site for this program are due Tuesday, September 30, and can be completed through Dane County OECC's website:

<https://www.daneclimateaction.org/Initiatives/Charge-Up-Dane-Co/Site-Host-for-EV-Charging>.

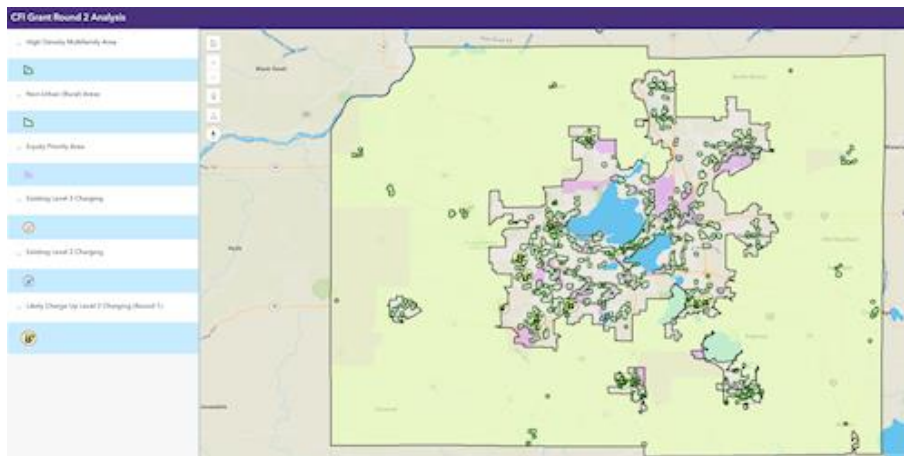
Details to know for potential site hosts:

- Priority locations for this charging infrastructure program fit one or more of the following criteria:
 - High-density urban and suburban areas where residents lack access to private charging networks (for example, multifamily neighborhoods)
 - Rural areas where the private charging market is less likely to install charging stations
 - Multi-modal transportation hubs where EV charging can support public and active transit options

- Benefits for site hosts include:
 - Free EV charging infrastructure equipment, installation and 5 years of operations & maintenance
 - Permanent infrastructure upgrades to your property
 - Potential for increased traffic to your business
 - Potential to offer useful service to the neighborhood
 - Charging fees will cover the cost of electricity and taxes--so there's no out-of-pocket expense for hosts
- Requirements for site hosts:
 - Public access: the chargers must be available to the general public; EV owners will pay a fee for charging but not a separate fee for parking
 - Reserved EV parking: spots must be designated "Parking for EV Charging Only"
 - ADA accessibility: at least one of the 4 charging spots must be ADA compliant, which means the host provides 5-6 total spots, depending on lot design
 - 5 year agreement: the host agrees to maintain public accessibility and affordable charging for five years after the station is up and running
 - Station-use reporting requirements: the host will assist with reporting on station use which is tracked by the charging software
 - State of Wisconsin excise tax filings: as the owner of the stations, the host will be responsible for paying the State of Wisconsin EV excise tax (the host will recover this tax in charging fees)

OECC hosted a webinar where they talked about the Charge Up grant and the site host opportunity. Staff responded to questions from attendees. Watch the video recording to learn more about this opportunity: <https://youtu.be/CzUw1clGY-U?si=nfrlvzITER5oN4LI>

See the map linked below for overlays of the priority criteria for successful sites, as well as a view of existing Level 2 and 3 charging, and likely Level 2 additions from Round 1 of funding.



Fitchburg's Shred/Recycling Event is Tomorrow 9/13

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

Tomorrow, Saturday September 13, is Fitchburg's Fall Recycling Day Event (*including shredding and recycling of confidential paperwork, as well as electronics recycling*)! The event will run from 8:00am-11:00am at the Civic Campus, 5520 Lacy Rd. Check out the City's Recycling-Day page ([linked here](#)) for information on the event. If you can't make it to City Hall tomorrow morning but you're still looking to dispose of confidential papers or electronics (please do not bring separate batteries to the recycling event), here are some tips:

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 their 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/>
- Some businesses in the area also accept electronics for recycling. See the Electronic Waste Drop-off list on Fitchburg's website: <https://www.fitchburgwi.gov/2566/Recycling#!rc-cpage=211319>

Batteries

- Alkaline batteries should be disposed of with your household waste.
- Lithium and rechargeable batteries can be taken to multiple locations in the area, including Batteries + Bulbs, Staples, Home Depot, and Dane County Clean Sweep. Use the recycling search tool on Fitchburg's website to find tips on proper disposal of different battery types, and drop-off locations: <https://www.fitchburgwi.gov/2566/Recycling#>

USDA to End “Roadless Rule” in National Parks – Comment by 9/19

<https://www.theverge.com/news/692299/national-forest-fire-trump-rescind-roadless-rule-usda>

In late August 2025, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) formally proposed rescinding the 2001 “Roadless Area Conservation Rule,” commonly known as the Roadless Rule. The move, announced in the Federal Register, initiates an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process covering approximately 44.7 million acres of inventoried roadless National Forest System lands—excluding state-specific protections in Colorado and Idaho—and notably including Alaska’s Tongass National Forest. Public comments on the proposal are open through **September 19, 2025**, with a draft EIS expected in March 2026 and a final decision projected for late 2026.

This decision is centered on forests in Alaska and other public lands in the Western United States, but there are echoes of this conversation in Wisconsin as well. Our state forests—including the Chequamegon-Nicolet—already allow managed logging and road access, but also rely on zoning and planning to balance economic use with conservation. Many Wisconsin residents depend on these forests for recreation, clean water, and wildlife habitat, so questions about how much access, cutting, or road building should be allowed are familiar ones.

For Dane County residents, the takeaway is that the Roadless Rule decision could set a precedent for how the nation balances conservation with economic and safety concerns. Even if the acres in question are far from home, the issues—forest health, water quality, habitat, and sustainable use—are the same ones we wrestle with in our local natural areas.

The USDA is taking public comments through **September 19, 2025**. A draft environmental review is expected next spring, with a final decision in 2026. Share your perspective, comments, and concerns at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/08/29/2025-16581/special-areas-roadless-area-conservation-national-forest-system-lands>.

Celebrate Latino Conservation Week September 20 at Brittingham Park

<https://www.wisconsincolatinos.org/general-8?pgid=latsnws7-90382142-71f0-4053-8ef0-8387e9072929>

Come to Brittingham Park (829 W Washington Ave) in Madison on Saturday, September 20, from 10am-12pm for a Latino Conservation Week and Hispanic Heritage Month celebration!

This bilingual event will offer education on how to reduce plastic use, save energy and money, and lower your carbon footprint.

*Ven al Brittingham Park (829 W Washington Ave) en Madison el sábado 20 de septiembre, de 10:00 a.m. a 12:00 p.m., para celebrar la **Semana de la Conservación Latina y el Mes de la Herencia Hispana**.*

Caminata en el parque aprendiendo a cuidar el ambiente reduciendo plásticos, ahorrando energía y bajando nuestra huella de carbono.



CELEBREMOS EL MES DE LA HERENCIA HISPANA Y LA SEMANA DE LA CONSERVACION LATINA

SABADO SEPTIEMBRE 20, 2025

UN DIA APRENDIENDO COMO CUIDAR DE NUESTRO MEDIO AMBIENTE

Brittingham Park
829 W Washington Ave,
Madison, WI 53715

10:00AM-12:00PM

BILINGUE PARA TODA LA FAMILIA

Caminata en el parque aprendiendo a cuidar el ambiente reduciendo plásticos, ahorrando energía y bajando nuestra huella de carbono

¡CUIDEMOS EL PLANETA!

Wisconsin EcoLatinos

Wisconsin Stormwater Week is September 20-28

<https://www.wistormwater.com/>

WI Stormwater Week is a grassroots effort of organizations throughout the state that work to raise awareness about the sources of stormwater pollution. This week-long event is an awareness campaign that aims to inform, educate, and engage Wisconsin residents on the topic of stormwater pollution prevention through shared, consistent messaging. Help share this event by signing up today!



This event includes numerous partners around the state, including the City of Fitchburg, and it's an excellent way to learn more about stormwater and keeping our waterways clean, as well as offering ideas and opportunities to take action in your own community.

Scientists Finding More Help for Honeybees

<https://scitechdaily.com/superfood-for-bees-sparks-15-fold-colony-boom/>

Scientists have just unveiled a breakthrough: a lab-made "superfood" for honeybees that mimics pollen's key nutrients and can make colonies boom. By engineering a common, food-safe yeast to produce six essential sterols—molecules bees usually get from pollen—researchers gave hives a nutritionally complete diet. Colonies fed this enriched diet reared **up to 15 times more larvae** compared to those on standard feed.



For decades, beekeepers and scientists have watched honeybee numbers slide, with U.S. colony losses routinely hitting 40–50% annually. Various causes include poor nutrition, habitat loss, pesticides, diseases, harmful mites, and climate stress. This new “superfood” doesn’t solve every problem—but it zeroes in on a key piece: nutrient deficiency. In an era when natural floral variety is shrinking, a reliable, balanced feed could help colonies build resilience.

So far, these results have come from controlled trials in enclosed environments. Up next will be large-scale field tests to see if this supplement holds up in real hives and shows the same benefits at a larger scale. If that goes well, farmers and beekeepers might see it in their toolkits within a couple of years. Why does this matter? Honeybees pollinate more than 70% of the world’s leading crops, so their health is central to the fruits, nuts, and produce we all rely on. Watching for innovations—like this bee “superfood”—isn’t just about beekeepers or scientists. It’s about supporting pollinators who keep our farms, gardens, and ecosystems thriving. And with the ongoing challenges bees face, any tool that strengthens colonies in a sustainable way is worth celebrating.

Read more at <https://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2025-08-20-saving-bees-superfoods-new-engineered-supplement-found-boost-colony-reproduction>

Why “Leaving the Leaves” Helps our Yards, Water, and Wildlife

<https://ripple-effects.com/Leaf-free-Streets>

As autumn settles in, it’s tempting to rake, bag, and clear every last leaf from our lawns. But leaving some of those leaves in place—or at least keeping them out of the street—can have big benefits for both the environment and our community.

For one, fallen leaves provide critical winter shelter for pollinators and other beneficial insects. Many species of butterflies, moths, and bees use leaf litter to overwinter, and removing every scrap of organic material deprives them of that safe habitat. When spring arrives, those same

insects go to work pollinating gardens, parks, and farms—helping our food supply and our ecosystems thrive. A thin layer of mulched leaves can even serve as a natural mulch for lawns and garden beds, improving soil health and reducing the need for chemical fertilizers.

Just as importantly, keeping leaves out of the street is a big deal for our waterways. Rainfall and snowmelt wash decomposing leaves into storm drains, where they release phosphorus and other nutrients that fuel algae growth in our lakes and streams. Too much algae can choke out aquatic life and diminish water quality. Dane County’s Ripple Effects program calls this effort “Leaf-free Streets,” and it’s one of the most impactful things homeowners can do each fall to protect our lakes.



Here in Fitchburg, residents can get involved in a few easy ways. The City participates in the county-wide Adopt-a-Storm-Drain program (<https://www.fitchburgwi.gov/2686/Adopt-a-Storm-Drain>), giving neighbors the chance to help keep drains clear of leaves and debris. You can even request a free yard sign from Fitchburg Public Works or Dane County (<https://ripple-effects.com/Leaf-free-Streets>) to remind others of the importance of keeping leaves off the streets.

So this fall, consider mowing over some of the leaves to mulch them into your lawn, raking a few into your garden beds, and keeping the rest out of the gutter. It’s a simple seasonal shift that supports pollinators, protects our lakes, and makes our community just a little more resilient.

Climate.gov is now Climate.us

Text from <https://www.climate.us/>

For more than a decade, NOAA’s Climate.gov website has been the U.S. government’s premier platform for climate information for the public. In the first half of 2025, NOAA terminated Climate.gov’s full-time federal and contractor staff, shutting down the site’s daily operations.

*Now, former members of the Climate.gov team have joined together with nonprofit partners to launch **Climate.us**: a successor to Climate.gov outside the federal domain, where we can safeguard climate information from political interference.*

Climate.us will be a nonprofit successor to Climate.gov, delivering climate data and information to promote public climate literacy and to equip people to turn knowledge into meaningful conversations and climate-conscious actions. At a moment when critical climate information is

being deleted or distorted, we are stepping up to rescue key climate resources—including the U.S. Global Change Research Program's now-deleted Fifth National Climate Assessment—and to ensure the public has continued easy access to the facts. Our goal is to build an enduring, independent, and scientifically rigorous platform that the world can rely on for climate communication, education, and engagement.

As a non-profit, Climate.us requires donations and other support to succeed, so if you value accurate, reliable climate data free from political influence, consider supporting this important new repository of global climate data.

September-October Events and Observances

- [Rain and Downspout Gardens](#) – Join other community members at the Lussier Family Heritage Center (Lake Farm County Park, 3101 Lake Farm Rd) for a Native Garden Learning Hub event about rain gardens and downspout gardens. This event is Sunday, September 21 from 2pm-4pm.
- [2025 Bike the 'Burg Wrap Party](#) – The Fitchburg Chamber Visitors + Business Bureau is celebrating the conclusion of another successful summer “Bike the ‘Burg” event, as well as further expansion of Bicycle-Friendly Businesses and the BCycle bike-share network in Fitchburg. Join on Friday, October 8, from 5pm-7pm at the Agora Pavilion on E Cheryl Dr.
- [The Challenges of Collaborative Environmental Governance: We Have Work to Do](#) – The first Weston Roundtable event of the school year, hosted by the UW Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, features guest speaker Rich Margerum from the University of Oregon, on Thursday September 18 from 4:15-5:15pm.





Imagine a Day Without Water
October 17





Energy Resources for Our Future

October 12 - 18, 2025
www.earthsciweek.org

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- 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.

