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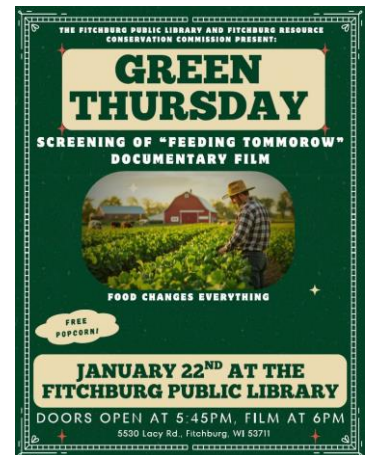
Green Thursday Film Screening: “Feeding Tomorrow”

<https://www.fitchburgwi.gov/2336/Green-Fitchburg-Events>

Join the City of Fitchburg Library and Resource Conservation Commission (RCC) for a film screening of “Feeding Tomorrow at the Fitchburg Library this Thursday, January 22nd from 6:00 pm-7:45 pm. Learn about our modern food systems and how they’re tackling climate change and other environmental issues, their relation to our health and well-being, and more. The film will lead into a short discussion following the showing.

Look for more environmental film showings hosted by the RCC and Fitchburg Public Library in the coming months!

Please bring a reusable water bottle and join us for this thought-provoking and educational event. Popcorn will be provided for attendees.



Fitchburg Earns SolSmart Gold

<https://www.fitchburgwi.gov/m/newsflash/home/detail/2522>

As of November 2025, the City of Fitchburg is now a Gold-designated SolSmart community! Initially awarded the Bronze designation level in 2019, Fitchburg spent the past few years completing its final few requirements to earn this upgrade to Gold, a designation that reflects



the tremendous work City leaders and staff have put into making Fitchburg a leader for solar development in Wisconsin and the nation.

Created in 2016 by the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Energy Technologies Office, SolSmart is a national program dedicated to helping reduce the "soft costs" of solar development, such as design, permitting and review, and financing. Through this program, over 600 communities representing a third of Americans have become SolSmart designated, helping accelerate solar development over the past decade to reduce electricity costs, lower the ongoing costs of solar through increased scale, foster greater energy independence, reduce climate emissions, and provide greater stability to utility grids.

While federal funding for SolSmart no longer exists as of January 2026, the benefits of this program will continue to be felt in the coming years, and Fitchburg residents will continue to benefit from changes the City has made to ease solar installation and resource-sharing.

Fitchburg Connect Newsletter Coming to You Soon

<https://www.fitchburgwi.gov/m/newsflash/home/detail/2539>

Stay informed with Fitchburg Connect, the City of Fitchburg's new monthly digital newsletter. Each month you'll receive important updates on city projects, events, services, and community news - delivered straight to your inbox. Our first edition will be coming out the first week in February! [Sign up today](#) to stay connected and never miss what's happening in Fitchburg.



Passive House 101 Presentation at Committee of the Whole

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIGOV/bulletins/3f54a84>

Join us for Passive House 101, a presentation at the January 28 Committee of the Whole meeting (6:30pm at the City Hall Frances Huntley-Cooper Council Chambers), with a presentation from a Certified Passive House Professional & Architect and the Construction Manager of Madison's first Passive House-certified multifamily building. Learn how Passive Houses work, their benefits, and what this approach means for sustainable building in our community.

Passive Houses are high-performance buildings designed to dramatically reduce energy use while improving comfort, durability, and indoor air quality. Originating with energy pioneers in the U.S. and Germany in the late 20th century, the Passive House concept now guides buildings worldwide — from homes to multifamily, office, and school projects.

A passive house is built to a rigorous performance-based standard that minimizes energy for heating and cooling. Instead of relying on large mechanical systems, it uses smart design to maintain comfortable indoor temps year-round. The goal is not zero energy use, but ultra-low energy demand such that minimal heating/cooling is needed even in extreme weather.

Passive houses offer substantial energy savings (cutting heating and cooling energy use up to 90%), increased comfort & health (due to stable temperatures, reduced drafts, and continuous fresh air), durability & resilience (tighter building envelopes and greater moisture control enhance longevity and reduce maintenance costs), lower environmental impact (decreased emissions from energy use), and utility independence.

Plant Dane Native Plant Program

Text modified from <https://www.ripple-effects.com/Plant-Dane>

Convert some of your lawn into a native garden this spring! Not only are native plants beautiful, but they provide important ecosystem services, such as habitat for pollinators and wildlife, and improved water quality. Native gardens act as sponges, helping rainwater to soak into the ground and thus preventing stormwater runoff and pollution from washing into our lakes, rivers and streams.



The Plant Dane Program provides Dane County residents access to native plants at the discounted price of \$3.00/plant (\$12.00/4-pack), about half the normal retail price. With orders accepted beginning February 1 (and plant pick-up scheduled for May 16), this program is open to schools, non-profit organizations, municipalities and individual residents in Dane County.

Schools and community organizations can apply for [free native plants](#) online, with an application deadline of January 31 and plants ready for pick-up in the Spring.

WI DNR Arbor Day Free Seedlings for Fourth Graders

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/treeplanting/arbormform>

Arbor Day is a holiday during which individuals and groups are encouraged to plant trees. The holiday originated in Nebraska in 1872 but is now celebrated nationally and in many other countries. Wisconsin's Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday in April and is usually linked with Earth Day.



In Wisconsin, the Wisconsin DNR helps celebrate Arbor Day with an environmental education program designed to teach students the importance of trees within our environment. Annually, we provide thousands of free tree seedlings to Wisconsin fourth-grade students for this celebration. Orders will be accepted until March 16, and can be placed online or on paper, with instructions given on the [program website](#).

Draft Strategic Urban Forestry Management Plan

<https://www.fitchburgwi.gov/m/newsflash/Home/Detail/2537>

In 2025, the City of Fitchburg partnered with Eocene Environment Group and a variety of stakeholders to develop Moving Fitchburg Forestry Forward, the City's first Strategic Urban Forestry Management Plan. This plan will serve as the roadmap for urban forestry efforts in Fitchburg over the next five years.



The draft plan is now available for public review at the link below. Community input is an important part of this process, and residents are encouraged to share comments and feedback before February 24, 2026.

Please email comments on the draft plan to Anna Healy, City of Fitchburg Urban Forester & Naturalist, at anna.healy@fitchburgwi.gov.

This plan was funded through a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Urban Forestry Grant. Thank you for your interest in and support of Fitchburg's urban forest.

View the first draft of the Strategic Plan [on the City's website](#).

2026 Healthy Neighborhoods Grant Applications Open

<https://www.fitchburgwi.gov/m/newsflash/Home/Detail/2541>

The City of Fitchburg is now accepting applications for the Healthy Neighborhoods Grant, which supports programs and projects that strengthen and enhance the City's Priority Neighborhoods: Southdale, North Fish Hatchery, Belmar, and Verona Road West.

The grant is open to all **501(c)(3) organizations** and supports innovative efforts that create long-term, positive impacts for residents, businesses, and neighborhood environments. Eligible focus areas include youth mentoring, youth education, adult education and workforce development, food security, and neighborhood- and community-building and engagement.

Applications must be submitted by **4:00 p.m. on February 16**. Organizations are encouraged to apply with programs that address community needs and strengthen connections within Fitchburg's priority neighborhoods. Visit <https://www.fitchburgwi.gov/2571/Healthy-Neighborhoods-Grant-Program> for more details.

2026 Fitchburg Solid Waste Calendar



[2026-Draft-Solid-Waste-Collection-Calendar_Final](#)

The 2026 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 some properties have had their collection days change from Tuesday or Thursday to Wednesday; if your property is affected, you should have received a mailing alerting you to this change.



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

