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Revisiting January/February Green E-News

<https://www.fitchburgwi.gov/2876/Green-E-Newsletters>

Apologies to subscribers who didn't receive the January/February issue of Fitchburg's Green E-Newsletter. We were made aware of this issue in delivery too late to still get the newsletter out before the relevant deadlines referenced, but hopefully that wasn't a deterrent to anyone!

As a reminder, you can find all Green E-News issues linked from the Green Fitchburg page, specifically at <https://www.fitchburgwi.gov/2876/Green-E-Newsletters>.

Items from the [first issue of 2026](#) that may still be relevant include Fitchburg achieving SolSmart Gold designation, Plant Dane native plant orders being accepted until March 17 (or while supplies last), and the Wisconsin DNR providing free seedlings to 4th graders around the state. Check out the most recent newsletter at the link above for more info!

Sign Up Today for Fitchburg Connect Newsletter

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

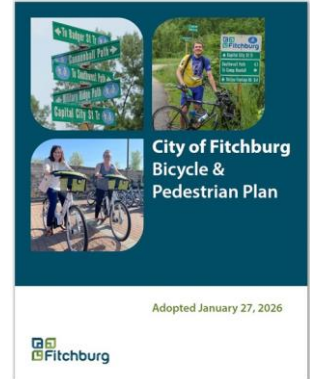
Stay informed with Fitchburg Connect, the City of Fitchburg's new monthly digital newsletter. Each month you'll receive important updates on city projects, events, services, and community news - delivered straight to your inbox. Our first edition just came out the first week in February! [Sign up today](#)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



Fitchburg Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Updated

<https://www.fitchburgwi.gov/2875/Bicycle-Pedestrian-Plan>

The Fitchburg Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan has been updated, with Council approving the final plan on January 27, 2026 and the plan published online with final revisions at the end of February. This Plan is the result of a year-long effort to update the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan—most recently revised in 2017—to better reflect the City's growth in the past decade, as well as updating best practices in infrastructure and program planning. Check out the new Plan at <https://www.fitchburgwi.gov/2875/Bicycle-Pedestrian-Plan>.



New Drop-Off Option for Foam and Plastic Film

<https://www.fitchburgwi.gov/214/Recycling-Drop-Off-Site>

The City's Recycling Drop-Off Site at the Public Works Maintenance Facility (2373 S. Fish Hatchery Rd.) has a new addition: a white dumpster dedicated to plastic film and foam products. This means that along with block polystyrene foam (the rigid stuff that comes packed around appliances and electronics), you can now also drop off styrofoam packing peanuts and plastic film (things like grocery bags, bubble wrap, plastic mailers, and plastic wrap) to be diverted from the landfill. These materials have long been tricky to recycle — they're not accepted in curbside carts — so this is a great new outlet for items that might otherwise end up in the trash.

The drop-off site is open to City of Fitchburg residents only, during daylight hours, and is monitored by surveillance cameras. For a full list of accepted plastic film and foam items, visit Fitchburg's Recycling Drop-Off Site [webpage](#).

While you're out there, remember the drop-off site also accepts cardboard, scrap metal, yard waste, used motor oil, and oil filters — a one-stop shop for hard-to-handle recyclables!

March-April Events and Other Important Dates

- **[March 5 Green Thursday Film Screening: “Trees”](#)** – Join Fitchburg’s Resource Conservation Commission and the Fitchburg Public Library for the screening of “Trees and Other Entanglements.” This is a beautiful, thought-provoking documentary that reimagines our relationship with trees and the living world around us. It’s a powerful reminder that we’re more connected to nature than we often realize. Please bring a reusable water bottle; popcorn will be provided for attendees.
- **[WI DNR Arbor Day Free Seedlings for Fourth Graders](#)** – The WI DNR is giving away free seedlings to state fourth-graders to help promote arbor day and teach students the importance of trees within our environment. Orders will be accepted until **March 16**, and can be placed online or on paper (instructions on the [program website](#)).
- **[Plant Dane Native Plant Program](#)** - The Plant Dane Program offers Dane County residents access to native plants at a discounted price of \$3.00 per plant (or \$12.00 for a 4-pack) — roughly half of typical retail cost. Native plants support pollinators and wildlife, improve water quality, and help rainwater soak into the ground rather than running off into our lakes and streams. Orders will be accepted until **March 17** (or until supplies are gone), with plant pick-up May 16 at assigned times.
- **[Bilingual Environmental Conservation Fair, April 18](#)** – Celebrate Earth Day at the Bilingual Conservation Fair — ¡El Día de la Tierra! — on Saturday, April 18th from 12–4 pm at Hosta Hoci (2220 Traceway Dr). The event is co-hosted by the City and organized by WI EcoLatinos, a local org working to raise equity and participation in environmental quality and conservation. It's a free, family-friendly afternoon with something for everyone. Connect with more than 20 local organizations to learn about water quality, air pollution, climate change, renewable energy, EVs, and more! We’ll have live music, free tree saplings, and raffles for free water filters and other items.
- **[Spring Shred/Recycling Event: April 11](#)** – The Spring Recycling Day event is scheduled for Saturday, April 11, from 8-11am, at the Fitchburg civic campus (5520 Lacy Rd). This event will include confidential paper shredding and electronics recycling (see the [event website](#) for separate instructions on recycling batteries, and how you can safely dispose of electronics outside of this biannual event).
- **[Earth Day: April 22](#)** – The April 18 Environmental Conservation Fair kicks off Earth Week, highlighted by Earth Day on Wednesday, April 22. Keep an eye out for local events and resources surrounding this annual celebration!

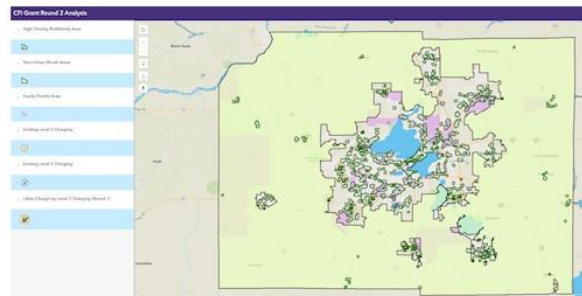
“Charge Up Dane County” – EV Site-Host Applications Due April 2

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

Do you own or manage a property that could serve as a public EV charging location? The Dane County Office of Energy & Climate Change has opened a third and final RFP for site hosts as part of the Charge Up Dane County program, with applications due Thursday, April 2 at 2:00pm. This will be the final round of accepting site-host applications, so if you’ve been considering applying but haven’t yet taken that step, now is the time!

Site hosts will receive free EV charging equipment, installation, and five years of operations and maintenance costs with no out-of-pocket expense, and with charging fees structured to recover electricity costs. Priority is given to locations serving multi-family housing, rural areas, and multi-modal transportation hubs.

Visit the [program page](#) for full application details, site host requirements, and a map showing these priority areas to see if your site qualifies, and to register for the vendor conference webinar on March 10 at 10am.

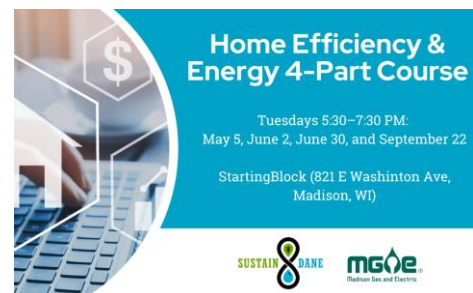


Map of Priority Areas & EV Infrastructure

Sustain Dane Home Efficiency & Electrification “Mini-Course”

<https://sustaindane.org/eventbrite-event/home-efficiency-electrification-mini-course/>

If you've been thinking about making your home more energy-efficient but aren't sure where to start, Sustain Dane has you covered. Sustain Dane and Madison Gas and Electric are offering a four-part Home Efficiency & Electrification Mini Course, meeting on Tuesday evenings May 5, June 2, June 30, and September 22, from 5:30–7:30pm at StartingBlock Madison (821 E Washington Ave). Dinner is provided, and the course costs \$60 (scholarships are available if this cost is a barrier).



Participants will learn how to understand their home's energy performance, boost efficiency and comfort, plan for home electrification, obtain contractor quotes, and navigate state and federal rebates and incentives. By the end of the course, you'll have a personalized plan for upgrades, a project budget, and potential contractors lined up.

Focus on Energy Rebates and Incentives

<https://focusonenergy.com>

Spring is on its way, and along with standard Spring cleaning, many homeowners have big projects in mind as the weather warms. But before you tackle that next home improvement project, it's worth checking whether you can get some help paying for it!



Focus on Energy, Wisconsin's statewide energy efficiency and renewable resource program, offers rebates for homeowners and renters who make qualifying upgrades — things like insulation, air sealing, smart thermostats, heat pump water heaters, and more. Some improvements may also still qualify for federal tax credits under the Inflation Reduction Act, which can be stacked on top of state rebates for additional savings.

Spring is a popular season for contractors, so getting your ducks in a row early — knowing what rebates are available and lining up quotes — can help you get projects done before the summer rush. Visit focusonenergy.com to explore current offers and see what might apply to your home.



Madison BCycle Season Opens March 13

<https://madison.bcycle.com/>

The BCycle bike-share program is set to return for 2026, with bikes going out around Fitchburg and the Madison area on March 13. BCycle offers a convenient and low-emissions way to get around — whether for a quick errand, a lunch break ride, or a car-free commute. Pass options include single rides, guest passes, monthly passes, and annual memberships, with discounted rates available for students, faculty, and income-qualifying residents through the Community Pass Program. Download the BCycle app to unlock bikes with your phone and find station locations near you, or review the area system [map online](#).

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.

