

Charleston County News Release

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Residents Encouraged to Recycle Christmas Trees

Bring a tree to Bees Ferry Landfill January 3-10 and receive a free bag of compost.

With the assistance of County residents, Charleston County's <u>Solid Waste and Recycling Department</u> will be recycling real – not artificial – Christmas trees and turning them into compost for residents to use for gardening this spring.

Christmas trees can be dropped off at the <u>Bee's Ferry Landfill</u> (1344 Bee's Ferry Road in West Ashley) to be recycled. Hours of operation are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

All tinsel and ornaments need to be removed before a Christmas tree is brought to the Bee's Ferry Landfill or placed on the curb for pick-up.

In order to encourage tree recycling, residents who bring their tree to the Bees Ferry Landfill between January 3 and 10 will receive a free bag of compost in return. In addition to receiving a free bag of compost, Charleston County residents can purchase compost for just \$10 per ton at the Bee's Ferry Landfill. Residents can bring buckets to fill or for a large amount, drive in a pick-up truck to have it loaded.

Charleston County residents who live within a municipality can recycle their trees without going to the Bees Ferry Landfill. These residents can put their Christmas tree on the curb for their municipality's yard waste pick-up. The municipality's haulers will then take the trees and other yard waste to Charleston County's Bee's Ferry Landfill, where it is composted by Charleston County's Solid Waste and Recycling Department.

Residents should check with their municipality to find out their yard waste pick-up day and other requirements.

The process of recycling trees and yard waste into compost is as follows:

- At the Bee's Ferry Landfill, the trees and yard waste are ground up in what is called a tub grinder.
- The yard waste is then placed in windrows (long piles of ground-up yard waste), where it is watered and turned with a windrow turner.
- After six months, the yard waste breaks down to a rich, dark soil, called compost.
- The compost is screened and ready to be used again as a soil amendment in yards, lawns, gardens, flower beds or potted plants.

For questions about recycling Christmas trees and other yard waste, contact the Bee's Ferry Landfill at (843) 571-0929 or visit http://recycle.charlestoncounty.org.