



Charleston County News Release

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Citizens Asked to Recycle Christmas Trees, and Other Tips for a “Greener” Holiday

Recycle your Christmas tree January 2-9 for a free bag of compost

[Charleston County's Environmental Management Department](#) staff would like to remind all residents that they are here to help citizens make their holidays a little “greener.”

“About 25 percent more waste is generated this time of year, but much of it is recyclable and need not be destined for the landfill,” said Nancy Carter, Charleston County Environmental Management Department’s Community Representative. “Recyclable products have value and will generate revenue that flows back into the county. Recycling also provides jobs in addition to many environmental and health benefits.”

Christmas trees and greenery can be recycled (please remember to remove all tinsel and ornaments). Some municipalities will pick them up curbside, or they can be taken to a [convenience center](#). The trees picked up curbside are transported to the Bees Ferry Landfill to be ground and composted. Residents who drop off a tree at the Bees Ferry Landfill from January 2-9 will receive a free bag of compost.

Cardboard, all mixed paper and commingled products (plastics #1-7, glass containers and aluminum and steel cans) can also be recycled through the [curbside program](#) and at the numerous [drop-site locations and convenience centers](#) located throughout the county. The convenience centers also accept used [motor oil](#) and cooking oil, [electronics](#), [household hazardous materials](#), batteries, paint, [compact fluorescent light bulbs \(CFLs\)](#) and holiday light strands.

Residents should note changes in the schedule over the holidays. All convenience centers will close at 3 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 24 except for Bees Ferry Landfill, which will close at 2 p.m., and all will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. [Curbside recycling schedules](#) will not change during the holidays.

For more information on recycling, contact the Charleston County Environmental Management Department at (843) 720-7111 or visit <http://www.charlestoncounty.org>.

SIDEBAR

Tips to Make Your Holidays Environmentally Friendly!

Start a new family tradition - have an environmentally friendly holiday and be environmentally responsible throughout the holiday season and the coming year. It’s easy! Just follow the helpful tips below, and this holiday season will mark a wonderful start to a brighter, cleaner future for us all. Below are some tips to help you begin your new holiday “environmental awareness.”

Gift-Giving Tips

- Use a reusable shopping bag when shopping for your holiday purchases.
- Buy holiday cards printed on recycled paper.
- Use popcorn or old newspaper as packaging materials, feed left-over popcorn to the birds.
- Save wrapping paper and ribbons for reuse.
- Wrap gifts in recycled wrapping paper or newspaper comics.
- Place all small gifts directly in stockings, instead of wrapping.
- Spread your new-found environmental holiday tradition! Give an environmentally safe gift such as a canvas shopping bag, can crusher, faucet aerator, etc.
- Telephone or email your relatives and friends, instead of sending cards.
- Avoid over-packaged items.
- Choose gifts with extended life expectancy.
- Donate good used toys and games to your favorite charity.
- Purchase gift cards so someone can buy exactly what they need or want.
- Make a donation to a non-profit organization in their name.

Entertaining Tips

- Use reusable cups, glasses, plates and utensils.
- Use cloth napkins and table cloths instead of disposables.
- Purchase party products in recycled and recyclable containers.
- Recycle at your party!

Holiday Tips

- Encourage guests to bring food in their favorite dishes instead of disposables.
- Make your own invitations from scrap or recycled paper.
- Use old T-shirts for cleaning and dusting cloths.
- Purchase and make as well as use non-toxic Green cleaning products.

Cooking Tips

- Reuse aluminum cooking trays; do not use disposable ones.
- Buy only as much food as needed; food wastes are more of our household waste than aluminum cans, plastic bottles and glass combined.
- Freeze leftovers for meals.
- Compost vegetable waste with yard clippings in a backyard home composting program.

Decorating Tips

- Consider buying an artificial tree instead of buying a "live" tree each year. They make artificial trees that look incredibly natural.

- If you buy a “live” tree, be sure to recycle it! Christmas trees and greenery can be recycled (please remember to remove all tinsel and ornaments). Some municipalities will pick them up curbside, or they can be taken to a [convenience center](#).
- Look for wreaths made from seeds and berries that act as bird feeders.
- Instead of putting up a tree, decorate your indoor and outdoor plants with lights and ornaments.
- Make planting a tree part of your holiday tradition.
- Decorate your tree with strings of popcorn and berries instead of tinsel.
- Avoid one-time use decorations such as tinsel, spray snow and window stickers.
- Consider making homemade potpourri by simmering cinnamon sticks, lemon, ginger or clove in a small pot of water on the stove. It smells even better...and it's more fun!
- Use decorations that can be reused or create decorations such as streamers from old magazines.
- Buy LED lights to reduce energy consumption.

