

# News Release



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## Recycle Your Christmas Tree and Go Green this Holiday Season

*Tips from Environmental Management and the holiday recycling pickup schedule*

[Charleston County's Environmental Management Department](#) is asking citizens to go green this holiday season by recycling Christmas trees and by following other helpful tips to lessen the environmental impact.

To recycle Christmas trees and greenery, follow these instructions:

- Remember to remove all decorations such as lights, tinsel, ornaments, etc.
- 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 Compost Facility](#) to be ground and composted.
- Residents who drop off a tree at the Bees Ferry Compost Facility from January 2 - 8 will receive a **free** bag of compost (one bag per customer).

All paper, including gift wrapping, cardboard and other products (plastic bottles & containers, glass bottles & jars and aluminum & 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, used electronics (televisions, printers, monitors and computers only), household hazardous materials, batteries, paint, and compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).

*Note: Please flatten all cardboard boxes before placing in your recycling cart. If you have oversized boxes, please cut them down to 3 x 3 ft. to ensure they will fit in the recycling truck. Stack extra cardboard next to your recycling cart.*

Below are other helpful tips you can follow for environmental awareness this holiday season:

### **Decorating:**

- If you buy a live tree, recycle it!
- Buy LED lights to reduce energy consumption and extend the lifespan of holiday lights.
- Decorate your tree with household items such as strings of popcorn and berries instead of tinsel.

### **Gift Giving:**

- Recycle all paper including gift wrap, tissue paper, gift bags, boxes and cardboard. If it tears, recycle it!
- Buy holiday cards printed on recycled paper. Wrap gifts in newspaper comics or wrapping paper made with recycled content.
- Avoid purchasing over-packaged items. Drop off packaging material such as Styrofoam peanuts and bubble wrap at your local shipping store; they will gladly reuse it.
- Remember to recycle outdated electronics.

**Entertaining:**

- Use reusable cups, plates and utensils.
- Use cloth napkins and tablecloths instead of disposable ones.
- Recycle at your holiday party.

**Cooking:**

- Compost food waste with yard clippings in a [backyard home composting program](#).
- Purchase only as much food as needed and be sure to store and prepare properly to avoid food waste generation. Not only will this reduce waste, but it will make your food dollars go further.

**Charleston County Environmental Management Holiday Schedule:**

Below are the recycling pick-up schedule and the Environmental Management office's holiday schedule.

- **Environmental Management Department:**
  - Administrative Offices will be closed Friday, December 22, until Tuesday, December 26 in observance of the Christmas holiday and will reopen on Wednesday, December 27.
  - Administrative offices will be closed on Monday, January 1 in observance of New Year's Day.
- **Bees Ferry Landfill**
  - The landfill will be closed Sunday, December 24 and Monday, December 25.
  - The landfill will resume normal hours on Tuesday, December 26 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
  - The landfill will be closed on Monday, January 1
  - The landfill will resume normal hours on Tuesday, January 2 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Staffed Convenience Centers**
  - Staffed convenience centers will be closed Friday, December 22, except the Bees Ferry Convenience Center, which will be open normal hours from 7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. and the Romney Street Convenience Center, which will be open from 7:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
  - The Romney Street Convenience Center will be closed Saturday, December 23; all other convenience centers will be open on their normal hours on Saturday, December 23 but will be closed Sunday December 24 and Monday December 25
  - Staffed convenience centers will resume normal hours on Tuesday, December 26, except the Signal Point Road Convenience Center, which will open on Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
  - Staffed convenience centers will be closed on Monday January 1 for New Year's Day.
- **Curbside Recycling Collection**
  - There will be no residential curbside collection on Monday, December 25 or Monday, January 1. Collection will resume on Tuesday, December 26 and Tuesday, January 2 with holiday makeup days occurring on the day following your regularly scheduled pick up day.

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

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*- Prepared by the Public Information Office-*