



STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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NEWS RELEASE

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Give Our Environment a Gift: Recycle Your Christmas Tree!

LAS VEGAS - Live Christmas trees are one of the most recognized traditions of the holiday season. They make our homes smell nice; they're fun to decorate; they provide a beautiful focal point for the room in which they are placed; and they serve as the family gathering place for gift-giving. But what usually happens to the trees after the holiday season? Most people just throw them away.

Increasingly, though, people are recognizing that Christmas trees are, in fact, a valuable organic material that can be recycled and chipped into mulch that can be used in public gardens and parks across the valley to help conserve soil moisture and keep plants healthy.

For the sixth year in a row, the Southern Nevada Christmas Tree Recycling Committee, which consists of government agencies, volunteers, and business entities, is asking southern Nevadans to recycle their Christmas trees.

"By recycling your tree, you will be giving a gift that will keep on giving to the community and to our environment," said Kathryn Fergus, southern Nevada recycling coordinator for the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, and a member of the committee.

Community participation has increased every year, according to Fergus. Last year, for example, southern Nevadans recycled almost 19,000 trees - an 86 percent increase from 2007. Yet, as impressive as that total is, it represents only 7.5 percent of the approximately 250,000 trees sold in the community last year. Approximately 231,000 trees went to the landfill.

"Fortunately, it's very simple to recycle your tree," Fergus explained. "There are no fees to participate in this community effort; just a little of your time is all that's needed. We're asking all residents, businesses, and organizations to take their Christmas trees to one of our more than 20 convenient drop-off sites between December 26 and January 15."

(more)

Christmas Tree Recycling
Add 1-1-1-1

All non-organic objects such as lights, wire, tinsel, ornaments and nails should be removed from the tree prior to drop-off. Foreign objects contaminate the mulch and damage the chipper. Flocked trees cannot be recycled.

As a new service this year, 1-800-GOT-JUNK? will pick up trees from homes for a \$20 fee December 26 through January 19 between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. The fee covers removal of the tree wherever it is (upstairs, downstairs, backyard, etc.) and vacuuming of pine needles in home. The removed tree will be dropped off at one of the designated recycling drop-off points. Appointments for pick-up can be scheduled 24-hours-a-day by calling 1-800-468-5865 (1-800-GOT-JUNK), or Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. by calling 271-9333.

For more information about the Christmas Tree Recycling Committee, the locations of the various drop sites, and other sustainable environmental projects, please visit the Desert Springs Preserve website at www.springspreserve.org, or call (702) 822-7700. For more information on recycling, please visit www.nevadarecycles.gov.

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