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RIVERSIDE COUNTY

NEWS RELEASE

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Christmas Tree Recycling Highlights Composting in Riverside County

The conclusion of the holiday season always brings plenty of returns with it, but you can return your natural Christmas tree to the ground it grew in by dropping it off at a Riverside County landfill, where it will be recycled into a nutrient-rich soil amendment.

Through the free Christmas tree drop-off program, natural trees collected at the Badlands and Lamb Canyon landfills will be chipped and combined with food waste from the Larry D. Smith Correctional Facility in Banning to create compost. The food waste composting pilot program at Lamb Canyon is an innovative way to insure that organic waste is diverted away from landfill burial, and instead recycled and turned into a valuable soil amendment.

Natural Christmas trees must be prepared for recycling by removing all decorations, lights, tinsel, and tree stands. Flocked trees cannot be recycled through this program and need to be cut up and placed in your regular trash container.

Other natural Christmas trees that are recycled, at free drop-off sites or at the curb, will be taken to local green waste processors to be recycled into compost or mulch products. Most trash haulers will collect Christmas trees curbside for two weeks after Christmas. Place the prepared tree next to or inside the green waste container on your regular pick-up day. Trees over 4 feet tall should be cut in half. Contact your waste hauler for more details.

For those who don't have a curbside pickup program, there are several drop-off locations that will accept up to three properly prepared residential Christmas trees for FREE through January 7th:

- A. Lua Wood Recycling, 18938 Mermack Ave., Lake Elsinore
- B.P. John Recycling, 28700 Matthews Rd., Romoland (accepting until January 31)
- Burrtec Recycle Center, 41-800 Corporate Way, Palm Desert (Burrtec customers only)

- Burrtec/Robert A. Nelson Transfer Station, 1830 Agua Mansa Rd., Riverside (Burrtec customers only)
- Riverside County Badlands Landfill, 31125 Ironwood Ave., Moreno Valley
- Riverside County Lamb Canyon Landfill, 16411 Lamb Canyon Rd., Beaumont

Unfortunately, trees that are not recycled at drop-off locations or through curbside pick-up, will only occupy valuable space in our landfills.

Make the last gift you give this year to the Earth...Recycle Christmas trees!

If you would like more information on this program, please call Riverside County Department of Waste Resources (951) 486-3200 or visit the waste guide on our website for more green holiday suggestions: <http://www.rcwaste.org/wasteguide/holiday>.