

FACT SHEET: RECYCLING LIVE CHRISTMAS TREES

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December 2011 – Hillsborough County, Florida -- It's holiday time again. Recycling comes immediately to my mind! Yes, re-gifting is recycling. One tip: make sure you remember the person that gave you the gift so you do not re-gift to the gift-giver! It's time to consider your live Christmas tree recycling options, too. In Hillsborough County, there are three Yard Waste Processing Facilities that accept Christmas Trees:

- **350 Falkenburg Road, Tampa, FL 33619, phone (813) 744-5599**
- **13001 US Highway 41, Gibsonton, FL 33534, phone (813) 671-7611**
- **8001 West Linebaugh Avenue, Tampa, FL 33625, phone (813) 264-3816**

The yard waste sites are open Monday through Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Christmas tree drop-off service is limited to Hillsborough County solid waste residential customers. Residential customers must bring their current tax bill and proper identification to access and use the facilities listed above. Customers must remove all decorations, lights and tinsel from their trees. Trees do not need to be cut into 4 foot sections if delivered to one of the three sites above.

However, all trees must be unloaded by the customer. Your Christmas trees will be recycled into mulch and other environmentally beneficial by-products at these facilities. Non-County residential solid waste customers must pay a tonnage fee to use these facilities.

Artificial Trees Are Not Accepted at County Yard Waste Processing Facilities

A **Second Option** is to put your Christmas tree out for curbside pick-up on your regular yard waste collection day. Again, remove all decorations, lights and tinsel. The tree, however, must be cut into pieces that are no more than 4 feet in length and no more than 6 inches in diameter.

A **Third Option** is to recycle your Christmas tree by placing it in your back yard. The deteriorating tree will provide a habitat for birds and other wildlife. To provide food for birds, you can hang suet or sliced fruit from the branches.

A **Fourth Option** is to chop or grind the tree and use as mulch around trees, shrubs and flower beds.

A **Fifth Option** is firewood. Be sure you let the tree age as burning sap can be smoky and hazardous. Freshly cut wood does not burn as well as aged wood. Check with your city/county for outdoor burning regulations.

For City of Tampa residents, the City of Tampa Christmas tree collection service will run Monday, January 2, 2012, through Friday, January 6, 2012. Residents are asked to remove all decorations and lights, cut trees limbs to four feet lengths, bundle, and place at curbside on their regularly scheduled yard-waste collection day. For questions or concerns, please contact City of Tampa Utility Services Customer Care at (813) 348-1111, or visit the website at www.tampagov.net/solidwaste.

And, remember, **Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle!!**