News Release

Recycle Your Christmas Tree (and Other Tips to Lessen Your Environmental Impact this Season)!
Holiday recycling pickup schedule also announced

With the holidays approaching, Charleston County's Environmental Management Department encourages citizens to start a new family tradition by taking simple steps that lessen their environmental footprint during the holiday season and throughout the New Year.

Recycle your Christmas tree and greenery
- Remember to remove all décor 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 Landing Compost Facility to be ground and composted.
- Residents who drop off a tree at the Bees Ferry Landing Compost Facility from January 2-11 will receive a free bag of compost.

All paper, including gift wrap and cardboard, 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.

Other helpful tips 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- Remember to recycle outdated electronics if a new, replacement gadget is received.

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.
- Drop off your used cooking oil at one of Charleston County's eight staffed [convenience centers](#).

Charleston County Environmental Management Holiday Schedule

- **Curbside recycling**
  - If your recycle day falls on Wednesday, Dec. 25, you will receive recycling service on the next day, Thursday, Dec. 26. For the remainder of the week, your pick up day will occur on the day directly following your regularly scheduled pick-up day.
  - If your recycle day is on Wednesday, Jan. 1, you will receive recycling service on the next day, Thursday, Jan. 2. For the remainder of the week, your pick up day will occur on the day directly following your regularly scheduled pick-up day.

- **Environmental Management Department**
  - Administrative Offices will be closed on Tuesday, Dec. 24, Wednesday, Dec. 25 and Thursday, Dec. 26 in observance of the Christmas holiday, and will re-open on Friday, Dec. 27.
  - Administrative offices will be closed on Wednesday, Jan.1 in observance of New Year's Day.

- **Bees Ferry Landfill**
  - The landfill will close at 12 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 24 and remain closed for Christmas Day on Wednesday, Dec. 25.
  - The landfill will resume normal hours on Thursday, Dec. 26 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
  - The landfill will be closed on Wednesday, January 1 for New Year's Day.

- **Staffed convenience centers** (including the Bees Ferry Convenience Center)
  - Staffed centers will close at 12 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 24 and remain closed for Christmas Day on Wednesday, Dec. 25
  - Staffed centers will be closed on Wednesday, Jan. 1 for New Year's Day.

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

For information on Charleston County Government news and services, the public can:
- Visit our website: www.charlestoncounty.org
- Follow us on Twitter: https://twitter.com/ChasCountyGov
- Like us on Facebook (main County site): http://www.facebook.com/pages/Charleston-County-Government/474878989220753
  - *Board of Elections and Voter Registration*: http://www.facebook.com/pages/Charleston-County-Board-of-Elections-and-Voter-Registration/103895809694986
  - *Consolidated 9-1-1 Center's Public Education Program*: http://www.facebook.com/pages/Charleston-County-Government/474878989220753#!/pages/Charleston-County-Consolidated-9-1-1-Center-Public-Education-Program/186965438015227
  - *Emergency Management Department*: http://www.facebook.com/EMDChasCo
    - *Awendaw District Fire Department:* http://www.facebook.com/EMDChasCohttps://www.facebook.com/pages/Awendaw-District-Fire-Department/505429932850932
  - *Zoning and Planning Department*: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Charleston-County-Government/474878989220753#!/pages/Charleston-County-Zoning-Planning-Department/549596221765813
  - *Sheriff's Office:* https://www.facebook.com/pages/Charleston-County-Government/474878989220753#!/pages/Charleston-County-Sheriffs-Office/557956290949818See us on You Tube: http://www.youtube.com/user/charlestoncountygov
- Watch County Council meetings online http://www.ustream.tv/channel/charleston-county-government