

December 3, 2009

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING OFFERED BY COUNTY AND GARBAGE DISPOSAL SERVICE

Wondering what you'll do with your Christmas trees and other natural decorations after the holiday season is over? Catawba County's Landfill staff, in cooperation with Garbage Disposal Service (GDS), has an answer for you. Christmas trees and other natural decorations will be collected at all five Convenience Centers located around Catawba County from December 26, 2009 through January 31, 2010, and at curbsides during January 12 through January 23rd, 2010. No ornaments, bases or other decorations should be left on trees.

"If you have regular curbside solid waste collection, you may put your used Christmas tree out on the day of your regular garbage pickup from January 12 through January 23, 2010, and a separate truck will come recycle the tree," said Amanda Kain, Catawba County's Waste Reduction Coordinator. "Since GDS will collect trees at the curbside from January 12 through 23, residents should have two opportunities for GDS to pick up trees on their regularly scheduled garbage pick-up day."

Christmas trees and other natural decorations will only be accepted at the County Convenience Centers between December 26, 2009 and January 31, 2010. Some municipalities in Catawba County are again handling tree pickup separately within their boundaries, so residents of municipalities should check with the government office in their city or town to be sure of the schedule and procedure they should use.

"Since January 1, 1993, it is illegal under North Carolina law to dispose of yard waste in a sanitary landfill," said Barry Edwards, Catawba County Director of Utilities and Engineering. "Christmas trees are defined as 'yard waste', so they may not be disposed of in regular trash containers at any of the County's Convenience Centers".

"All collected trees are recycled to make compost and mulch. The mulch and compost is available to Catawba County citizens at the Blackburn Landfill Construction & Demolition site. Mulch is available for \$10.33 per yard, with a 3 yard minimum purchase which costs \$31, or for \$24 per ton. Compost is available for \$15.16 per yard, with a 3 yard minimum purchase which costs \$45.50, or \$35.00 per ton. There are no mulch or compost sales on Wednesday," Edwards added.

The County's five Convenience Centers are located on Rocky Ford Road off Highway 10 west of Newton (across from the Blackburn Landfill); Lookout Dam Road in the Oxford Community; Sherrills Ford Road; Bethany Church Road; and in the Cooksville Community on Rhoney Farm Road. The Blackburn Convenience Center is open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. The Oxford and Sherrills Ford Centers operate Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. The Bethany Church Rd Center is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. The Cooksville Center is open on Fridays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. All five convenience centers will be closed on Friday, December 25, 2009.

The Blackburn Sanitary Landfill will close at 1pm on Thursday, December 24. It will be also be closed on Friday, December 25 but will operate from 8am-4pm on Saturday, December 26, 2009. The Blackburn Construction and Demolition Landfill will be closed from Wednesday, December 23 through Friday, December 25, 2009. GDS will be closed and not operating on Christmas Day. Garbage service on Friday will be provided on Saturday. All GDS routes will run on a normal schedule on New Year's Day however the GDS office will be closed.

CONTACT: AMANDA KAIN, WASTE REDUCTION COORDINATOR
DAVE HARDIN, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

828-465-8217
465-8464