

Christmas Tree-Cycle

Christmas Tree Recycling
is provided after Christmas and through New Year's

each year
by the

County of
Hawai'i at designated transfer stations.

Chipped Christmas trees are provided as mulch at the conclusion of the collection.

Recycle

Hawai'i
helps with supplemental advertising

via Public Service Announcements and posters at County transfer
stations.

So...
Now that the presents have all been handed out from under
the tree and

New Year's resolutions are looming around the corner,

it's time to
start thinking about recycling your Christmas tree.

Tree recycling can be a simple and great way

to start off your new year with an eco-friendly
act of kindness.

Between 30 and 35 million real Christmas trees are sold in
the U.S. each year.

Luckily, about 93 percent of those trees are currently
being recycled

through more than 4,000 available recycling programs.

A county in Indiana uses a tub grinder to recycle their community's trees into mulch.

This is the same process the County of Hawaii uses here on the Big Island.

Treecycling is a simple way to bring a renewable and natural source back to the environment – and not the landfill – where decomposition rates are slowed due to lack of oxygen.

Real Christmas trees can be recycled in a variety of ways.

They are commonly turned into mulch and used in landscaping and gardening or chipped and used for playground material, hiking trails, paths and walkways.

They are also used for beachfront erosion prevention, lake and river shoreline stabilization and fish and wildlife habitat.

The National Christmas Tree Association highlights projects that are thriving examples of Christmas tree recycling and reuse.

From wildlife habitat creation to sand dune restoration,

Christmas trees are being recycled into great use in communities nationwide.

Before recycling your tree, make sure to:

- Remove all stands, lights, tinsel and ornaments (including that great treecycle ornament, which can be put away for next year).
- Check the collection and drop-off dates for treecycling in your area – you don't want to miss the deadline, and dates and times can change on occasion.
- Do not place your Christmas tree inside a plastic bag. It should be left in its natural state for recycling.
- There are often community groups, such as the Boy Scouts of America, who will come pick up your tree for a small donation and take it to the recycling facility for you.

Friendly Reminders:

- If any of those Christmas tree ornaments or decorations isn't going to make it onto the tree next year, please remember to recycle or donate them.
- Upgrading to LED lights next year? Remember to recycle your incandescent lights at holidayLEDS.com

or donate them to a worthy cause.

- Avoid burning your Christmas tree as it creates unnecessary air pollution and can represent a fire hazard.
- Artificial trees cannot be recycled. They are made from mainly non-renewable plastics, often containing PVC, a petroleum-derived plastic. If you do have an artificial tree that you no longer use, consider donating it to a worthy cause or prolonging its life through good care and storage.
- "Living" Christmas trees should not be recycled with traditional Christmas trees. Arrangements should be made to replant them in a timely fashion in order to keep them alive. Many places, such as your local parks department, school or community organization, will accept the living trees for replanting.

Recycling Tree Ornaments:

Generally, all the decorations you create for your tree are made from things you would usually throw away. For example, the garland can be made from plastic packing "peanuts" strung together on thread. Cut out the pictures from old greeting cards, punch a small hole in the top, and add a ribbon.

You can also make ornaments from pine cones and sweet gum seed balls.

Use your imagination and see what ornaments you can make from things you would normally throw away.

You can even learn to make a snowman from an old lightbulb!

Each year, 25 million extra tons of trash is generated between Thanksgiving and New Years in the U.S. Think how you can reduce, reuse, and recycle.