

# Recycle your Christmas tree, don't trash it!

Weekly News Article Published: January 3, 2012 by the [Central Office](#)

MADISON -- As the holiday season draws to a close, people across the state are hauling their Christmas trees to the curb and waiting for pickup day.

But state solid waste and recycling officials say there are other ways to dispose of holiday trees that not only reduce the amount of waste that goes to the landfill, but also help the environment. Cut trees can be reused in a variety of ways. People can help keep the holidays green by trying one of the suggestions below:

- After the holidays, bring your tree outside to provide winter shelter for birds and animals.
- Trim smaller branches off your tree to use as cover for garden plants. Use the trunk as the base of a trellis or as a tomato stake.
- Use dried branches as kindling for fires. Chop the trunk to use as logs.
- Chip your tree to use as mulch, or check with your local government to see if they collect trees for mulching. If your community doesn't offer this service, check [earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org) <http://www.earth911.org/to> find a tree recycler near you.
- In upcoming years, buy live trees rather than artificial. Following the steps above, your tree will be recycled back into the environment. Artificial trees use resources to create, and may end up in the landfill after a few years of use.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Elisabeth Olson, (608) 264-9258