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Give your Natural Christmas Tree a Second Life Through Recycling

(Hampton Roads, Va., Dec. 29, 2020) – Whether you were rockin’ around it at the Christmas party hop or unwrapping gifts beneath its steadfast branches, naturally-grown Christmas trees are a festive backdrop for the holiday season. When the needles start dropping, however, consider giving O Tannenbaum a second life through your city or county recycling program.

“Recycling your Christmas tree keeps it out of the landfill and helps you give back to your community,” said Rebekah Eastep, a team leader with the askHRgreen.org, a region-wide public information initiative. “Many localities collect and chip the trees into mulch or compost that are used to beautify city and county public spaces.”

Beginning on or around Dec. 26, residents throughout the greater Hampton Roads area can take advantage of this seasonal recycling program. Trees should be free of ornaments, lights, tinsel and stands.

In addition to traditional recycling, there are many creative ways to use natural Christmas trees and greenery in your own yard and garden areas:

- Place the tree in the yard with citrus peels and strung popcorn for the birds
- Shred pines needles for use on pathways and trails
- Drape boughs and branches over plant beds for winter protection
- Use the tree as a habitat for wintering birds and woodland creatures
- Sink branches into ornamental ponds to feed the fish
- Snip small branches to use as kindling in fire pits

For a list of natural Christmas tree recycling and disposal options by locality, visit <https://askhrgreen.org/2021-christmas-tree-disposal-guide>. For additional information about all things green in Hampton Roads, visit askHRgreen.org.

About askHRgreen.org

askHRgreen.org is your go-to resource for all things green in Hampton Roads – from recycling tips and pointers for keeping local waterways clean to water-saving ideas and simple steps to make local living

easy on the environment. Launched in 2011, the region-wide public awareness and education campaign is administered through the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission and powered by the following members: The cities of Chesapeake, Franklin, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, and Williamsburg; the counties of Gloucester, Isle of Wight, James City, Southampton, Surry and York; the town of Smithfield; and HRSD. Like askHRgreen.org on [Facebook](#), follow on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), tune in to [YouTube](#) and catch the “Let’s Talk Green” [blog](#), written by a team of local experts.