

Real Christmas Trees are biodegradable, which means they can easily be reused or recycled for mulch and other purposes. Here are some recycling options and tips on what to do with your tree after the holidays.

First, all lights, wires, decorations and tinsel need to be removed from the tree.

Franklin Township: (Franklintwpnj.org)

2018 Curbside pick-up for recycling – Tuesday, January 2, Monday, January 8, and Tuesday, January 16, (depending on the number of trees, pick-ups may extend into Tuesday and Wednesday) – place on curb by 7am – snow removal takes priority

Colonial Park drop off – parking lot F, Mettlers Lane – 8am – 4pm - between December 26 - January 29, 2018. No wreaths/garlands accepted, as these are not recyclable – 1 tree per family. For more information please call 908-722-9292, press 6.

Convenience Center drop off – Berry St – when open – in Jan, Sat, 1/20 – 9am-1pm

What does the township do with trees? Trees are chopped into wood chips which are used throughout the park system to mulch plantings. Some chips/mulch will be made available to the public at drop-off sites at no cost. You can also find a pile of wood chips in Buccleuch Park, free to whoever wants it.

What else can you do with your Christmas tree? - Re-purpose it

1. Create a brush pile with your tree as the base

A brush pile consists of logs, branches and twigs and an old Christmas tree can make a great base. This is the easiest thing you can do with your tree if you have a yard. It directly benefits the wildlife in your backyard during winter months because brush piles and dead trees offer food and needed protection from the chill.

2. Use it in the garden

There are a number of ways you can recycle holiday tree to enrich your soil by composting it or using the needles and boughs to cover your garden bed. Chop the trunk and branches and break your tree down, this will allow you to add some nice insulation to your garden.

3. Decorate your tree for wildlife

If you love to watch birds or want a fun project, you can move your holiday tree outside and decorate it with edible ornaments or popcorn strings so that you feed wild birds. This is an enjoyable activity to do with kids and can help wildlife at a time when food is scarce. (Note: unlike birds, mammals such as raccoons, foxes or deer can become habituated to feeding by humans, so stop if they show up.)