

## **Recycling Your Christmas Tree**

Christmas trees are among our most endearing symbols of the Christmas season. Their attractive shape and delightful fragrance contribute to one of our most enjoyable and festive holidays. Americans love natural Christmas trees. Each year more than 35 million real trees are displayed. While natural Christmas trees make many favorable contributions to the environment during their production, they are also environmentally friendly with respect to disposal. Natural trees are biodegradable and have many alternative uses following the Christmas season. Many communities now have a Christmas tree recycling program. Typically trees are chipped, which makes them desirable for many landscape uses, hiking trails and playground areas. They also lend themselves to providing winter windbreaks for sensitive plants, or they can be placed along coastal shorelines and riverbanks to prevent erosion. In addition piles in woodland areas or standing near a bird feeder to provide cover for birds and wildlife. These are options to help you convert your tree that has been a source of joy and celebration during the holiday season into something useful and beneficial to the environment.