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Holiday Tree Recycling Reduces Greenhouse Gases

SAN DIEGO COUNTY – Each year, 25-30 million holiday trees are sold in the United States, however, once the holidays are over, the equivalent of nearly 62,000 acres worth of trees are sent to our landfills. When green waste ends up in landfills, the anaerobic decomposition process creates methane, a greenhouse gas 25 times more powerful in the harmful effects of global warming than carbon dioxide. Alternative disposal options, like composting, create significantly fewer greenhouse gases.

This holiday season, I Love A Clean San Diego (ILACSD) and the County of San Diego have joined together to encourage residents to give their holiday tree a second life through recycling. Throwing away holiday trees needlessly wastes a natural resource and occupies limited space in San Diego’s crowded landfills. Trees and other green waste can be easily made into compost and mulch which are then used to improve soil health at residences, public parks and local farms.

Recycling made easy. It has never been more convenient to recycle holiday trees and greenery thanks to the partnership between ILACSD and the County of San Diego. Visit their one-stop recycling database, www.WasteFreeSD.org or call 1-877-R-1-EARTH (1-877-713-2784) to learn where to recycle your holiday tree and wreaths.

Find a pick-up or drop-off location. Most waste haulers offer to pick up trees on normal collection days if the tree is cut into 4-foot sections, or smaller, and placed in the yard waste bin. In addition to curbside pick-up, tree drop-off sites are located in the following communities:

4S Ranch          Escondido          Otay Mesa
Alpine            Fallbrook
Bonsall           Golden Hill
Camp Pendleton    Imperial Beach
Carlsbad          Jamul
Carmel Valley     La Jolla
Chula Vista       La Mesa
City of San Diego Lakeside
Coronado          Lemon Grove
Del Mar           Logan Heights
El Cajon - City and Miramar
Unincorporated (including Mission Bay
Crest, Dehesa and Rancho National City
San Diego)         Oak Park
Encanto           Ocean Beach
Encinitas         Oceanside
A complete list of tree recycling locations is also available at www.WasteFreeSD.org or by calling 1-877-R-1-EARTH.

I Love A Clean San Diego operates San Diego County's official recycling website and call center which refers thousands of residents to the proper facilities to recycle or dispose of hundreds of different items. From holiday trees to food donations and appliances to cooking oil, ILACSD’s makes waste diversion quick and convenient. San Diego County residents are encouraged to visit www.WasteFreeSD.org or call 1-877-R-1-EARTH to learn how to recycle holiday trees as well as hundreds of other items.

About I Love A Clean San Diego (ILACSD) As San Diego’s most influential advocate for sustainability, I Love a Clean San Diego (ILACSD) is an environmental catalyst, awakening passion and inspiring action, empowering everyone to improve the health and beauty of our local environment. For over sixty years, we’ve brought the best in all of us together for a lasting, positive impact on our region. We are passion in action. For more information, to volunteer or donate, visit www.cleansd.org or call (619) 291-0103. Connect with us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. 

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