



"Keep Westmoreland County Beautiful"
An Affiliate of Keep America Beautiful since
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Christmas "Tree-cycling"

With the holiday season upon us, Westmoreland Cleanways would like to encourage everyone to continue the spirit of giving by recycling your live Christmas tree. After the festivities are finished, you can take your tree to one of 19 drop-off sites located throughout Westmoreland County.

Tree-cycling is truly giving a gift back to the community. Proper disposal of a live tree is beneficial to the environment. In most cases, live trees thrown away with the garbage end up taking up space in a landfill. However, recycling your Christmas tree returns it to nature. The trees will be chipped into mulch and used to beautify community parks where it will eventually decompose into valuable humus, nourishing and renewing the soil. If not mulched the trees are placed in natural areas to provide wildlife habitat.

There is **no cost** to recycle your Christmas tree, but some organizations hosting tree recycling sites such as Boy Scout Troup 239, The Burrell High School Environmental Club, and Murrysville-Export Rotary collect donations to fund their own projects.

All locations request that trees are completely bare of decorations when dropped off. This includes any tree bags or wrappings used to transport the tree to the drop-off site.

Sponsors of this year's Christmas tree recycling program include: Westmoreland Cleanways, the Westmoreland County Sportsmen's League, the James A. Rutter Company in Murrysville, the Penn Township Commissioners, and the Borough of Youngwood.

Ellen Keefe, Executive Director of Westmoreland Cleanways states, "Many people wonder about the environmental impact of purchasing a live Christmas tree verse an artificial one. Artificial trees are not recyclable in any way, and consume energy and natural resources that can't be recovered. Live trees add oxygen to the air, control erosion, and provide wildlife habitat while growing, and can be mulched or composted after Christmas to benefit the soil. What could be more natural than that?"

Note: Please see attached document for a complete list of Tree-cycling locations in Westmoreland County

ABOUT WESTMORELAND CLEANWAYS

Westmoreland Cleanways is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to protect, restore, and maintain the environmental qualities of Westmoreland County for all who live, work, and visit herein. Westmoreland Cleanways addresses the proper disposal of solid waste through recycling, special collections, the cleanup of illegal dumpsites and littered areas, and public education.

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