

Council urges householders to try some R&R this Christmas

This Christmas the Environment Section in North Tipperary County Council is urging the public to Reuse and Recycle this Christmas.

Did you know that Irish Consumers go through an estimated; 4 bottles of wine, 9.6 beer cans, 5 soft drinks cans, 7.8 plastic drinks bottles and nearly 1 roll of wrapping paper per second over the festive period. Another interesting fact to note is that if all the wrapping paper used in Ireland was laid out side by side it would cover an area of 89 kilometres by 89 kilometres, which is enough to cover half the size of Leinster.

Bottles, cans and paper can be recycled into something new and a full list of recycling services and bottle banks in North Tipperary can be found on the Council's website by visiting www.tipperarynorth.ie/environment

Here are some tips from Áine Mc Carthy, Environmental Awareness Officer with the County Council on how householders can play their part this year in reducing waste and increasing recycling by having a 'greener' Christmas.

Christmas Trees

Try to ensure that your Christmas tree is bought from a sustainably managed forest – Coillte, for example, is one of the many places in Ireland that you can buy an Irish sustainably managed tree. For more information check out the Coillte Website www.coillte.ie. Remember that you can only really keep this type of tree inside for about a week, before it starts to wilt so don't forget to water it and don't place it near a radiator!

Your tree can be composted when you are finished with it and North Tipperary County Council will look after this for you by providing a number locations where you can leave your tree for collection such as The Town Park in Templemore, Roscrea Civic Amenity Site, Parnell Street car park in Thurles as well as at the recycling centres in Nenagh and Ballaghveny from the 9th to the 23rd of January.

Christmas Cards

Why not think about sending e-cards this year? If you really must buy cards, buy recycled and check the percentage of recycled paper in each pack. Christmas cards can be placed in your recycling bin. Consider gift bags if possible as they can be reused over and over.

Real Gifts and decorations

Why not reduce your waste at Christmas by treating someone to an "experience present" such as theatre or cinema tickets to cut down on Christmas packaging. Look out for festive plants in your garden; many will have seasonal berries that will make great wreaths.

Many people at this time of the year, for ornamental purposes, collect Holly and unfortunately over the past few years we have seen a large decline in holly in our countryside – so please think before you start cutting wild holly!!

Don't forget the Batteries

Batteries at Christmas are always in high demand - especially if you have children. Think about buying rechargeable ones instead this year and then you won't have to worry about them – or panic on Christmas day when the new noisy toy that Santa brought won't work! If you are not using rechargeable batteries, remember to dispose of any spent batteries appropriately and not in your residual bin. A number of retailers will now take back old batteries

In addition try and think about presents that you don't need electricity to run - be old school and think about cool puzzles, jigsaws, card games or board games!

Christmas Lights

The LED (Light Emitting Diode) Christmas lights use up to 90% less energy than larger, traditional Christmas bulbs and last up to 100,000 hours when used indoors. LED lights also emit significantly less heat than conventional lights and are therefore less of a fire hazard. As an added bonus, if one of the LED lights burns out the rest of the strand will stay lit. Over the 30 day Christmas period, 100 traditional fairy lights switched on for 8 hours per day produces 17.71 Kg of CO2 and costs €5.00. Over the same period, 100 LED fairy lights produce 2.41 Kg of CO2 and costs only 60 cents.

Travelling

Think about giving a tree or garden plants as a gift to help offset the extra miles travelled at Christmas.

Christmas Recycling Centre opening hours;

Ballaghveny Landfill/Civic Amenity Site

Ballaghveny Landfill/Recycling Centre will be open on December 24th from 8.30a.m until 12.30p.m. It will be closed from the 25th to the 27th inclusive. It will reopen on Monday the 28th of December until the 31st of December. It will close on the 1st of January and reopen as normal on the 2nd of January.

Nenagh Recycling Centre

The Nenagh Recycling Centre will be closed to the public from closing time on Wednesday 23rd December to opening time on Wednesday 30th December. The Recycling Centre will also be closed on Friday 1st January, 2010.

The facility will be open on **Saturdays 9th, 16th & 23rd of January** to assist householders with all of that extra recycling and to take Christmas Trees.

Roscrea Civic Amenity Centre

The Roscrea Civic Amenity Centre will be open on **30th & 31st of December**. It will be closed on the 1st of January and open on the 2nd of January. It will be open on Thursday the 7th and 14th of January and every Friday and Saturday for the month of January (except for the 1st of January) and revert back to normal opening times in February (9.00 – 12.20 & 1p.m – 4p.m Fri & Sat)

Christmas Tree Recycling

From January 9th to 23rd inclusive, Christmas Trees will be accepted free of charge at the Recycling Centre, **Nenagh** during opening hours; Parnell Street Car Park, **Thurles** in specified areas; Civic Amenity Centre, **Roscrea Civic Amenity Site** during opening hours; Town Park, **Templemore** in specified areas and **Ballaghveny** Civic Amenity Site during opening hours.

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle your way to a Greener Christmas this year

Ends

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