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## Press Release

### **30<sup>th</sup> Annual Tree Chipping Event Continues San Francisco's Time-Honored Tradition of Recycling Christmas Trees**

***City staff and representatives from Recology will announce the holiday collection schedule and demonstrate how Christmas trees are recycled after being collected***

**WHAT:** The holidays wouldn't be complete in San Francisco without running some Christmas trees through a giant wood-chipper and getting a whiff of the fresh scent of mulched evergreens in the air in front of City Hall.

At this year's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Tree Chipping, City staff and representatives from Recology will once again chip some trees and announce the official dates of curbside Christmas tree collection in San Francisco – January 2 through January 14, 2017.

**WHEN: Wednesday, December 28, 2016 – 10:30 AM**

**WHERE: Civic Center Plaza**  
(The west side of Larkin St between the SF Public Library and Asian Art Museum)

**WHY:** Recycling is a time-honored tradition in San Francisco that even the Grinch could not deny. Christmas tree-cycling helps the City make additional progress toward its goal of achieving zero waste by not sending valuable organic material to landfill. Last January, San Francisco recycled 577 tons of Christmas trees – the equivalent of two Boeing 787 Dreamliners. The collected trees get chipped for mulch in parks and energy at a biomass facility.

SAN FRANCISCO— San Francisco is once again celebrating the holiday season by celebrating another time-honored San Francisco tradition – recycling. This year, City officials and representatives from Recology will gather in front of City Hall to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual “Chipping of the Trees” where previously adorned household Christmas trees will be fed through a giant wood-chipper and be recycled into energy for biomass facilities. The annual tradition is a reminder for San Francisco residents that Recology will be collecting and recycling Christmas trees from January 2 to January 14, 2017.

“In San Francisco, we help make the holidays a little greener by making it easy for residents to recycle their Christmas trees,” said Robert Reed, Recology. “Simply place your unflocked tree next to your blue cart on the morning of your regularly scheduled collection day for pick-up.”

City residents are encouraged to place clean, unflocked trees next to their recycling carts before 6 a.m. on their regular collection day between January 2 and January 14. Remove all tinsel, decorations, plastic bags, stands, and lights. If your tree measures more than 6 feet tall, please cut it in half. Recology crews will first collect recycling and then make a second pass to collect Christmas trees.

“On your collection day, simply set out your tree next to your blue recycling cart. There’s no need to put your tree in a plastic bag. Just make sure all of your ornaments and lights are removed and we will collect it,” said Reed.

Collected Christmas trees will be chipped at Recology San Francisco’s transfer station and recycling center at 501 Tunnel Avenue. The wood chips will be used as biomass (boiler fuel) to generate electricity.

“Setting your tree out for recycling is an easy way to reduce waste this holiday season,” said Debbie Raphael, Director San Francisco Department of the Environment. “San Francisco’s commitment to chipping Christmas trees means that hundreds of tons of discarded trees will be turned into energy, instead of taking up space in our landfills.”

Recology’s holiday collection schedule is available on [www.Recology.com](http://www.Recology.com). For more information email Recology through the “Contact Us” form at [www.Recology.com](http://www.Recology.com) or call the company at (415) 330-1300.

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