

BOARD LINES

A MONTHLY TRAINING NEWSLETTER FROM KEEP TENNESSEE BEAUTIFUL FOR TENNESSEE KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL LOCAL AFFILIATE BOARD MEMBERS



Energy Saving Tips to Utilize This Christmas

Christmas is a wonderful time of year when families come together to exchange gifts, decorate their homes, and feast on pies and turkey.

While time with loved ones is precious, there are still ways to minimize the cost of celebrating Christmas, both to your wallet and to the environment. Here are some ways to reduce your carbon footprint, lower electricity bills, and save energy during this holiday season.

1. Use LED Christmas Lights - LED Christmas lights consume 90% less electricity compared to regular Christmas lights and incandescent bulbs.

2. Fiber Optic Decorations - The best way to utilize energy efficient decorations is through fiber optic decorations and trees. These trees have a single light at the base to light up the entire tree along with the decorations.



3. Timing Christmas Lights - Do not turn on the Christmas lights during the daytime. It is a waste of

energy and electricity and no one can really enjoy looking at the lights during the day. Use a timer to automatically switch on lights when it gets dark and switch them off when there is plenty of natural light.

4. Tree On, Lights Off - When the tree is lit, there's no need to have other lights on. Not only will you save energy from turning off unnecessary lights, but you will also enhance the festive atmosphere.

5. Decorate with Candles - Candles are another beautiful way to decorate a room. You can use scented candles to add to the sensory pleasure.

See *XMAS Energy* on back

Coffee County puts KAB's Cigarette Program to Use

Keep Coffee County Beautiful (KCCB) Executive Coordinator Scott Riddell has put Keep America Beautiful's Cigarette Litter Prevention Program to good use this year.

With support from the program, KCCB has installed over 65 freestanding cigarette receptacles for downtown Tullahoma (20), downtown Manchester (20), Manchester Parks (11), the Coffee County Administrative Plaza (8), and at the South Jackson Civic Center (6) in an attempt to reduce the cigarette litter problem in the community.

Riddell said, "The reason Keep Coffee County Beautiful got involved with the CLPP was that Coffee County did not currently have any sort of cigarette litter program, and it was obvious we had a problem. We determined the locations of the receptacles by examining the areas, getting input from locals, and determining transition areas."

See *Cigarette Program* on back



Picture Courtesy of Scott Riddell

A cigarette receptacle stands in front of a Coffee County business. The receptacle allows smokers to properly discard cigarettes, instead of unwisely flicking them on the ground.

Information courtesy of www.green-christmas.org

Send us your email address to receive BoardLines: emcdavis@memphis.edu.

BOTTOM LINE

"Caring is a reflex...You live, you help." - *Ram Dass*

Recycling Programs for Your Christmas Tree

Christmas is over and you are packing up the lights and ornaments, wondering what to do with the Christmas tree. The first and most important thing to remember is to never burn your Christmas tree in a fireplace or wood stove. Pines, firs, and other evergreens have a high content of flammable turpentine oils. Burning the tree may contribute to creosote buildup and risk chimney fire. Here is a review of different tree recycling programs used throughout the country.

1. Curbside pick-up for recycling – Most areas will collect trees during the regular garbage pickup schedules in the two weeks following Christmas. There

are often requirements for size, removing ornaments, flocking, etc. Call for an appointment to have a non-profit in your area pick up your tree. Some boy-scout troops are offering a pickup service for a small donation.

2. Drop-off recycling – Take your tree to a drop off



Continued from Cigarette Program on front

“The receptacles have made a significant improvement with cigarette litter in Coffee County, particularly at the Coffee County Administrative Plaza and the downtown districts. One of the local mayors recently told me that he’s noticed a difference.”

KCCB also purchased 15 event cigarette receptacles, which have been used at various local events.

“I provide these to organizations in the county for their events. The Kiwanis Club and Manchester Parks have used them during their fireworks show, our chamber has used them during a dedication event, and the city of Tullahoma has used them during an arts and music festival,” Riddell said. “Usually, most of our local organizations can get a hold of some ClearStreams for recycling, but few have ash receptacles to address the cigarette litter problem at these events.”

KCCB will continue to use the receptacles to address as many areas in Coffee County as possible.

“I would encourage any and all affiliates to get involved in the CLPP. It is often an overlooked nuisance in our communities, and greatly adds to the affiliates’ visibility in the community,” Riddell said.

recycling center. Most counties have free drop-off locations throughout the county.

3. Mulch – Tree Recycling/Mulching programs are a fast-growing trend in communities throughout the nation. A Christmas tree is biodegradable. Its branches may

be removed, chipped, and used as mulch in the garden. They chip and shred the trees, then make the mulch available for use in your garden. Your hauler will notify you of pick-up dates in your area.

4. Soil erosion barriers – Some communities use Christmas trees to make effective sand and soil erosion barriers, especially for lake and river shoreline stabilization and river delta sedimentation management.

5. Fish feeders – Sunk into private fish ponds, trees make excellent refuges and feeding areas for fish.

6. Paths for Hiking Trails – Some counties use the shredded trees as free and renewable material for nature paths that serve the needs of both the environment and hikers.

Information courtesy of www.green-christmas.org

Continued from XMAS Energy on front

6. Lower the Thermostat - More people in your house means more body warmth. With guests coming over, you can safely lower the thermostat setting without noticing a difference.

7. Buy Energy-free Gifts - A survey from energyquest.ca.gov reveals that almost 40% of all batteries are bought during the Christmas season. You can choose to buy gifts that do not require batteries or are energy efficient. If you must use batteries, make sure that you buy rechargeable batteries.

America Recycles Day Wrap-up Report Reminder

America Recycles Day (ARD) is now over, which means wrap-up reports are due to Keep America Beautiful. Visit www.ktnb.org/ARD in order to report your ARD events on time. Deadline is Dec. 15, 2011.

Keep Tennessee Beautiful’s mission is to educate and rally Tennesseans to take responsibility for improving their community environments through litter prevention, beautification and waste reduction. Located at The University of Memphis, Extended Programs Division, KTnB is sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

Tennessee **KAB** Affiliates are supported by:

Keep America Beautiful, Inc.
1010 Washington Blvd.
Washington Square
Stamford, CT 06901
Phone: 203.659.3000
Fax: 203.659.3001
www.KAB.org

Keep Tennessee Beautiful
The University of Memphis
976 W. Park Loop, Ste 113
Memphis, TN 38152-4110
Toll-Free Phone: 888.862.5326
Fax: 901.678.4924
www.KTnB.org
www.stoplitter.org